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BIRMINGHAM AGE-HERALD
NOV 2 1926

The Pendulum Begins To Swing The Other Way On Cotton

The Department of Agriculture announced on Oct. 25 that it had received from a responsible firm of cotton factors in New Orleans a telegram stating that many negro tenant farmers were refusing to pick any more of their own cotton crop raised on shares, which pays them no profit at prevailing prices, and were moving off the plantations in search of work which will pay them a daily wage in cash.

Information from the Black Belt of Alabama is much to the same effect, and from portions of Mississippi. There will be hundreds of thousands of bales which will not be picked, but are included in the estimate by the government. These facts are being taken into consideration, as well as others, that rains have beat and damaged thousands of bales included in that famous estimate. Also, that plans to take care of some 4,000,000,000 bales and carry them over are maturing fast. Additionally, that the bulk of the "distress cotton," which has to be sold, has probably been dumped upon the market, and from now on the tendency will be to hold it off.

These are some of the factors which have stiffened the backbones of cotton producers, and which, notwithstanding the government report of last week increasing the estimate 827,000 bales additional, there was a rally in price. The export demand is good. Now the producers will sit tight, keeping cotton off the market, the reaction will carry the price along to better levels. It cannot be done at once; it is going to be a tug of endurance and strategy, but every bale held off helps the situation just that much. Those who hold will win out yet.

A PROGRESSIVE COLORED FARMER.

One of the most successful farmers of Standard, Louisiana, is Philip Barnes. His annual income is approximately $1750; his assets $6491. He owns 45 acres of land valued at $3000, which is improved as follows: residence $1700; three quarters of a mile of wire fencing $179, one quarter of a mile of miscellaneous fencing $50, and miscellaneous buildings $250. He has steel fencing, brick and other material for future improvement worth $50, farm implements wagons, etc., valued at $200, and livestock worth $375.

Although he bought the place only four years ago—a dense mass of saplings, briars and vines—today he has a modern farm with seventeen acres of cleared land. His orchard, an excellent young one, consists of thirty-five trees—apple, peach, and pear—to which he is expecting to add at least thirty trees this fall.

"My success is due largely to our make-it-at-home program," he said, "not to my efforts alone, but also to those of my family. From my potatoes, peanuts, peas, cane, garden truck, poultry, hogs and cows I obtain the major portion of our food, as well as considerable revenue. Aside from these I get some money from wood and other timber products which I market occasionally.

"At present there are upon our store shelves one hundred cans of vegetables and ample home-made jellies, jams and preserves to tide us over the slack season. In this we owe our success to the untiring efforts of our colored home-demonstration agent, Miss Stazia Hutson."

—Southern Workman

THE "INDOLENT" SOUTH

I.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune regards the following Associated Press dispatch from Washington as "highly significant and heartening":

> The South is prepared to finance the marketing of its record crop of cotton over an eighteen-month period and thereby obtain a better price for it than is now obtainable, federal authorities were informed here today. Representatives of the state financing corporations recently organized under the direction of President Coolidge's cotton committee informed Chairman Eugene Meyer of the committee and Federal Land Bank officers that they were prepared to start business immediately. After the conference, both Mr. Meyer and Chairman C. A. Williams of the federal farm loan board expressed the view that the South would meet its problem successfully.

This message, declares The Times-Picayune, given national, even international circulation, notifies all who may be concerned that the "advancing South" no longer can be halted or turned back by cotton crop misfortune. Continuing, the Times-Picayune says:

> This message, given national and even international circulation, notifies all who may be concerned that the "advancing South" no longer can be halted or turned back by cotton crop misfortune. The slump in cotton prices struck the producers hard along the whole wide-flung front. The incipient hysteria at the beginning tended to magnify its ill effect. There is now a counter-tendency in some quarters to belittle that effect. But the main body of enlightened Southern opinion opposes the distortion of the situation either way. Under sound and capable leadership the tendency to panic was speedily ended, intelligent measures were organized to retrieve the cotton losses so far as practicable and prevent their recurrence in future seasons. And meanwhile facts and statistics were marshalled to prove that the South's prosperity is builded upon a basis too broad for upset by mischance to a single crop; that the agricultural, industrial, financial and commercial resources of the section insure the continuance of its march forward despite an adversity which will have, as we believe, its excellent uses.
>
> One of those uses, for example, is the demonstration that the South does not live by cotton alone. Another is the demonstration to Southern farmers hitherto unconvinced that the measure of their own plantings largely determine whether they shall prosper, or suffer, by cotton production. Still another is the demonstration, in nearly all the cotton states, that diversified farming is the farmer's best insurance against overproduction and resultant price collapse of any single crop. Under the plan organized and financed for orderly marketing of the bumper crop this year, the loss and hardship will be materially reduced. Under the plans for cotton acreage reduction and diversified farming hereafter, the producers have the way of salvation clearly charted, its accomplishment in their own hands, assurance of aid and cooperation needed for its success—and knowledge of its necessity bought dearly in the hard school of this season's cotton experience.

Why the South is "able to meet its cotton problem successfully," as the Washington authorities phrase it, is made perfectly clear to The Times-Picayune by statistics recently presented in the Manufacturers Record and in other publications.

The Record points out that last year the South's agricultural products totalled $5,855,000,000, "of which only $1,600,000,000 represented cotton." The South's mining and manufacturing output in 1923, the last census year, exceeded $11,000,000,000, "or nearly double the entire value of its agricultural products."

The South's development along both agricultural and industrial lines "has been notably rapid during recent years," says The Times-Picayune. "Tens of millions upon tens of millions have been invested by companies and individuals that preceded their commitments by careful surveys and analyses. Financially, commercially, industrially—and agriculturally, despite the cotton reverse—the South has marched a great way past the point of dependency upon a single industry or a single crop. Its continued advance is most confidently predicted by those skilled yet conservative experts who are best qualified to reach and register reasoned judgments in such matters."

II.

The South is unbeatable, because it has the land, the climate, the money—and the people!

Our people are industrious. There never was a more fallacious popular notion than that the Southern people are indolent. In what section of the republic do people work longer hours than do the people of the South? We suspect that if the truth were known it would be seen that year after year the average Southerner works very much more during the year than the average resident of the East, North or West, not because he is more industrious by nature, but because of the nature of his climate and other conditions. For much of the year in the colder north people cannot be very active. They are shut in, slowed down. We are not shut in down South. Our farmers are out doors. They slow up a little in mid-summer, but not more than is good for their growing crops. We have seen people plowing and hoeing vigorously through June and July and in August doing whatever needs of the season called for, although August is a month of relatively light work. By September the harvest call summons them back to hard labor. Many have winter crops, but in November and December farm work is relatively light. In January, however, the hard grind begins all over again, and does not ease up until well along in July.

III.

We have very few laborers in industries who work less than eight hours, and in some industries the hours are longer; yet our people work with energy and spirit. Carpenters, masons, plasterers work all the year round.

The stores of Montgomery remain open many more hours in a week than do the stores of New York and other great cities, both summer and winter.

Our physicians and lawyers drive as relentlessly as the most fabulous go-getters whom we read about in the American Magazine, Success and the Saturday Evening Post. They seem never to have time for halting in their tracks for a friendly chat about this, that and the other. Always they are in a hurry.

We know something of the working habits of newspaper men, both in the business office and in the news and editorial departments. We know of no group of people in any vocation, North or South, who work harder all the year round than do the newspaper employes right here in Montgomery, capital of a State in the South—the indolent South, if you please. The hours of a newspaper worker are as a rule longer than the hours of workers in other vocations, but the indolent man is the exception rather than the rule in every newspaper organization in the South of which we have any knowledge. Most of them are full of pep and driving energy.

Go into any business office in Montgomery, and you will find everybody at work, whether in November or July. Encounter salesmen, promoters, organizers, they are always on the jump.

Landladies of our numerous boarding houses work 12 and 14 hours a day. They get up early and retire late. They grow tired, but they push on. They work.

Our vast transportation system is never thrown off schedule on account of the indolence of employes. They work with snap and precision.

It is always a subject of comment when we Southerners spot a lazy, do-nothing man. We have such people, to be sure; every community has them, but their neighbors talk about them. And we know that every community even in the colder regions of the land has them, or their literature which is supposed to reflect their character, is uniformly misleading. See Abe Martin's ironical remarks from his Olympian mound in Indiana.

We request that sociological experts make an unprejudiced study of the working habits of the Average Southerner.

An indolent or unenterprising people could not have performed the near miracle which Southerners have performed since the spring of 1865! Their achievement in that period once comprehended, will be regarded as the wonder of the modern world!

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Macon's Germans Making Progress With Their Farms

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 30.—Special to The Advertiser.—County Agent Charles J. Brockway reports a very interesting visit to the German colonists at Hardaway, Alabama, Tuesday afternoon. There are now twenty-five colonists living on the reservation, four of whom are women and six children. Twenty-five more have already left Germany and arrangements are being made to take care of these.

Considerable progress has been made since the settlement in the early spring. The colonists make use of a community house and several tenant houses that were on the 1,000 acres which they have taken over until they plant their gardens, fruit and nut orchards using their spare time to repair and build new houses.

The plan of colonization is to group four farmsteads of 40 acres each in a square with a central pump, barns and storehouses to be used in common. Each farmer has planted two acres in okra, two acres in snap beans, 10 acres in oats, five in corn and the balancein foodstuffs, soy beans, German millet and clover.

They have 40 head of fine dairy cattle, 75 hogs and 3,000 baby chicks. The Exchange clubs of Tuskegee and Union Springs have given some financial and the business men of both towns are anxious to see these industrious and thrifty colonists make good in their new homes. The county board of education has agreed to build a school near the colony to take care of the children.

Men, Measures and Memories

By WILLIAM T. SHEEHAN

CONDUCTING A PLANTATION WITH WHITE LABOR

McDuff Cain, former United States marshal, is trying the interesting experiment of operating an oldtime Black Belt plantation with white labor. He says that so far the experiment has worked well, and been successful. Mr. Cain has only white labor on his Alabama river plantation in Elmore county, near Wetumpka.

He says that experience has proved to him that the automobile craze has completed the demoralization of the negro farm labor. The negro who beggs or borrows enough money to get a ramshackle, second-hand automobile soon comes to believe that there is no farm work so important as tinkering an automobile side, and he spends a large part of his time when he ought to be working, in bumping over the road in a vehicle which he thinks put his in the class with the rich white man. There is much more fun in riding than in working.

"On the other hand," Mr. Cain said, "the white man who has to work for a living never forgets that unpleasant fact. He keeps it constantly in mind. He does not dodge responsibilities by ignoring them. If he has to work for a living, he faces facts boldly, and does it. Farm labor in our section of the state has been steadily deteriorating, and now the finishing touch to the deterioration has been given by the cheap, second-hand automobile. Negro labor is not interested in the plow, when he has access to an automobile. I do not know how this experiment will work out throughout the year, but so far it has been successful."

Mr. Cain says that on account of the cold and wet weather, planting is very backward. It has been delayed at least three weeks. Just this week, he is getting his cotton seed in the ground. It has been a bad spring for the farmer to make a start.

Colored Farmers of Lee County Urged to Adopt Safe Farming

Some time ago, it was announced through the columns of the Opelika Daily News that funds had been appropriated by the Opelika Chamber of Commerce to promote the five-acre cotton contest. The canvass has been made and fifteen communities are contesting. We are pleased at the interest so far manifested, and have reason to believe that many of these farmers will make a creditable showing.

I should like to state further, that despite the frequent warnings coming from every available source asking for a reduction in cotton acreage and the planting of more food and feed crops, the farmers are turning a deaf ear to all that is being done and said in this respect. One has only to take some highway from town, and travel a few miles to ascertain that Lee county is sadly in need of food and feed crops. The wagon loads of timothy, molasses feed and what not, makes one shudder when he realizes that these same farmers that are making the haul now are not making preparation to care for themselves another year, but are putting all of their eggs in one basket, namely, cotton.

Seed are high, yet it is imperative that each farmer make a sacrifice in order to have a good garden, sweet potatoes, peas, peanuts, syrup, an dthe like to take care of home consumption, and if possible have a surplus. One writer recently said, "Feed in the bin is worth more than money in the bank if feed has to be shipped in."

I want to state here a clipping from an Oklahoma Extension bulletin and is very fittingly called The Gospel of Safe Farming in Biblical Language and runs like this:

1. Remember the fertility of the soil that thy days may be long on the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

2. Take heed of thy garden and thy cow, thy sow and thy hen that thy wife and thy children may eat though all else shall fail thee.

3. Put not thy trust in one crop only upon thy farm, but provide against the evil days by producing thine own food and feed.

4. Despise not the day of small things. Thy bread grain, thine own vegetables, meat, milk, and eggs are thy sure rock of safety in time of trouble. Neglect them not upon thy farm.

5. The wise man leaveth nothing to chance, but produceth for his family their food in season and for his livestock their feed and forage. The foolish man risketh all upon one crop and great is his sorrow and the lamentations of his family when disaster cometh to that crop.

If this is good advice for the farmers of Oklahoma it is equally as good for the farmers of Lee county. Ask yourself the question, which side am I on, that of the wise or the foolish farmer. and when the test comes and you find yourself on the wrong side, have the courage and the manhood to get on the safe and right side. Take these five commandments and in the words of Solomon the wisest of men, "Bind them about thy neck, write them upon the table of thine heart, for long life and peace shall they add to thee."

T. P. MARSH,
County Agent.

THE DISAPPEARING HOG

The following editorial from the Selma Times-Journal is a little startling:

According to an agricultural bulletin there are now fewer hogs on Southern farms than there has been at any time during the past forty years. Most any observer of Southern farm conditions can recall a time less than two decades ago when to have hogs on the farm was almost a universal custom and it was a rare thing to find a farmer who had made no provision for his winter meat. Now, perhaps a majority of the farms in this section would show not a hog. It is a regrettable situation. The hog is a big contributor to agricultural prosperity. Hogs mean diversification and home-living and where their production is abandoned there can be no balanced method for [illegible] prosperity.

Blessed with a superior climate, unexcelled soil capable of producing a multiplicity of crops, there is no excuse for the Southern farmers failure to raise hogs for home needs. It is doubtful if the farmer ever makes a better investment than when he pays a few dollars for a brood sow.

All that the Times-Journal says is true, including probably the quoted statement that there are fewer hogs on our farms than there have been before in forty years. The South is the best hog country in the Western world; yet it does not take readily to hog-growing. It starts hog-growing here and there one year only to back away the next if prices are unfavorable. Cotton prices are as often unfavorable, yet we do not reduce cotton acreage. The South is a natural cotton country, but not more a cotton country than a hog country. Our climate suits hogs. Our vegetation is abundant. Our native crops, such as corn and peanuts, grow well here. Especially is the South fortunate in its vast network of natural streams—particularly in Alabama. Ask the bridge-builders of the State highway department about these streams, if in doubt.

We recall that about ten years ago a bulletin from the United States Department of Agriculture contained the state-

ment that hogs could be grown more cheaply in Alabama than in any other State. We do not doubt the correctness of the statement in the light of general conditions in Alabama favorable to hog-growing. Yet our hog population seems to be steadily disappearing, notwithstanding, as we say, that the hog market, year in and year out, is about as dependable as the cotton market, by which our farmers set so much store.

Not only is the hog population in Alabama, the most favored State, steadily disappearing, but not as much attention is paid to fruit-growing by the average farmer as was paid by the average farmer a generation or two ago. Fruit-growing today is done by the exceptional man; formerly it was attempted by the average farmer. He might not have much success; the chances were against him because of his lack of knowledge of parasites and the way to combat them. Parasites have discouraged thousands of farmers from growing fruit for family needs. Yet an intelligent man who has the patience and industry, can protect his fruit now by the application of approved methods of culture.

Moreover, it is astounding to note that even the family garden is in less favor in the country now than at any previous time in the history of Alabama. The State health department has looked into this vegetable garden situation somewhat in recent times. The observant gentleman who made the study was surprised at the new indifference of many farmers to the vegetable garden. The State health department is not concerning itself with agricultural economics particularly. It is concerned primarily with the question of malnutrition as a factor in public health problems. The public health worker knows that the family who is deprived of fresh vegetables and fresh fruits along with fresh meats is not likely to be a vigorous family physically. Members of such a family will have less resistance to disease than they would have if properly nourished. Their minds will not be as alert and fit as they would be if their bodies were properly nourished. You may be more fit than some fellow who is well fed, but if your eating habits are not sound you will not be as fit as you would be if they were.

While the State health department is not primarily interested in agricultural economics, the State department of agriculture is. That department will tell you that the farmer who excludes vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, hogs, poultry and cows from his scheme of things does not need a Henry Ford or a Roger Babson to tell him why he is not prospering. The reason he is not doing well is self-evident and needs no elucidation.

The Agricultural Revival in Macon County, Alabama

By JOSEPH O. THOMPSON

For many years North Macon county, Alabama, was tied hand and foot to the all-cotton system, consequently the farmers were married to poverty.

A few years ago under able local leadership around old Salem church and school house, a group of farmers were wont to meet and devise ways and means for better farming, better schools, better churches, better roads and better living. Out of these meetings ably led by the elder Mays, new agricultural plans were mapped out which have at last resulted in divorcing the farmers in that section from poverty. The elder Mays did not live to see the full realization of their hopes, but Moses was not permitted to reach the promised land and Livingstone died with the great dream of his heart unrealized, the open sore of the world unhealed, however, the descendants of the Mays have reached the promised land of safe and sane farming and the open sore of the one crop system in North Macon county has been cured. The county and state are enjoying the benefits of increased property values.

Land values in North Macon have gone up from a few dollars per acre to a hundred dollars per acre, and Mr. T. O. Dillard informed me, he bought lands the past winter for investment at $110 per acre; one of his neighbors turned down $150 per acre for his farm.

The germ thus planted by the elder Mays has spread into the adjoining counties of Elmore and Tallapoosa, that is, into those beats adjoining North Macon.

South Macon Impressed

The slogan of the South Macon land owners now is, "Follow North Macon agricultural star and divorce poverty." The small farmers of North Macon developed initiative, have been doing advance thinking and South Macon land owners will gladly follow their example.

Looking over their well terraced and beautifully cultivated fields, their gardens, flower yards, orchards, vineyards, pecan groves, barns filled with home-grown feed, smokehouses groaning with well filled supplies for the family table, well kept and nicely painted houses of the native farmers, one is bound to be impressed that if all-cotton growers in the South would emulate the example of the farmers of North Macon, there would be no problem of over-production of cotton as we are confronted with today.

The large land owners of South Macon are vieing with each other now to set in motion vigorous action looking to adopting North Macon systems of agriculture. Some results have already been obtained.

A German Colony

Near Hardaway, a colony of Germans direct from Germany under the leadership of a German agricultural director, have become established. Bullock and Macon county farmers are affording every assistance to these strangers in our midst, to make the colony a success, to give them a proper start and balance. More Germans are en route to that locality. They are buying these lands at $30 per acre. In a few years when they have multiplied their numbers over and over again, the lands will command a minimum price of $100 per acre. This has been true all over the South, where Northern Europeans have settled.

A German recently bought a fine plantation near Tuskegee, and it is understood he is to use that as a nucleus of another colony. It will be remembered that when Cullman was first settled, the Germans there were only a few, but the few brought in others and now Cullman is one of the flourishing North Alabama communities. The same thing is true as to the Norwegian colony at Thorsby in Chilton county. As these Germans and Norwegians are of the Nordic race they easily amalgamate with our native people and soon become flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. Eighty-five years ago George Oswalt came to Macon county from Germany and became one of our largest land owners and most prosperous planters. Later there came other German families. Descendants of these German families intermarried with the natives and are among our most thrifty farmers and business men today. Economy and thrift is characteristic of the German. It is told of one of the descendants of George Oswalt that he went to Montgomery to be examined by a specialist for some organic trouble; that the specialist told him that he would probably die any minute; on the other hand it was possible for him to live many years by prudent and careful living. In returning home on the train his traveling companion upbraided him for leaving the train at every station and exerting himself by running into the ticket office. The German's reply was: "You heard the doctor tell me I might die any minute, so I am taking no chances. I am only buying my ticket from station to station, do not want to invest any more money in ticket than I may be able to use."

Other Investors In Macon

Interest in Macon county lands has brought in purchasers from Atlanta and Montgomery. General Woodward of Georgia Military Academy has invested largely in lands in South Macon. Mr. E. W. Whitaker and B. B. Spratling of Georgia have bought two large tracts. Mr. Whitaker has built a fine residence, with all modern conveniences, and is a diversified farmer. He recently sold off of three acres of land $960 worth of sweet potatoes and from one acre of snap beans he realized $357. Mr. Henry Wright recently bought a tract of land in South Macon, paying $125 per acre for same, and is improving his home with a view of becoming a permanent resident.

There is a concerted movement on the part of South Macon county land owners to cure the disuse to which lands in that section have been put by boll weevil and consequent labor migration.

Macon county has upward of thirty types of soil, including Norfolk sandy loam and Houston and Trinity clays; the latter types contain sixty to eighty tons of lime, 20 tons of phosphoric acid, and ten tons of potash in the surface foot per acre.

The road program worked out by the board of revenue of Macon county, ably presided over by Mr. John H. Drakeford, president of the Bank of Tuskegee, is economical and efficient; all sections of the county are receiving attention and the road program is bringing communities together as never before. The main arteries being built by state and federal aid, the result of this program is causing a rapid advance in the price of lands.

The Story of "Little Ann"

Referring again to North Macon. The industrious men and women of that section find joy in their work. As I saw them at their tasks, I thought of the book called "Little Ann." In it there is the story of a miller; all his life long he had just been a miller and his home was close to the dam. When the call came, they stopped the mill lest the noise might disturb him. But in the morning he was restless, he could not speak, but he kept pointing to the dam. They were puzzled to know what he meant, until one of the workmen turned on the flume and started the great wheel again, with its creaking machinery. Then the old miller turned over and fell asleep. There is a lesson in that for us, the lesson is to find joy in our work, to find the music of life in the mill wheel; the great thing is to sing doing one's daily task, and that is the secret of North Macon's great agricultural progress. The farmers and their families find joy in their work and sing as they move about the farm from one duty to another.

I attended the sessions of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association in Atlanta this week, and as one heard the statistics showing the great development of the industry in the South, he could but be impressed of its importance. However, the cotton mills are face to face with a problem of over-production and the burden of all alike was stabilization of industry, principally by control of production. The suggestion of one speaker was that they build no more mills and grow fig trees, not for the fruit, but for the leaves and the smaller the leaves the better.

The Neglected Fig

I have always contended the fig has been neglected in Alabama, and now that the cotton mill industry sees the possibility of the use of the fig leaf, we may be able to grow the fig for the fruit in commercial quantities. Texas and Louisiana have long since commercialized the figs and the wealthy traveler on the diner is the only one who can indulge in the luxury of eating figs while traveling, as the diners are now charg-

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THE NEGRO AS A GARDENER.

The Montgomery Advertiser comments as follows:

The latest monthly reports at Tuskegee institute from negro farm demonstration agents in Alabama include several interesting accounts of the progress of the movement for better gardens among negro farmers. The value of good home gardens is being emphasized by the demonstration agents, and as a result the farmers are manifesting increased interest in this important branch of agriculture. They are making greater efforts to have better gardens, and several instances of successful gardening have been cited in the reports at Tuskegee.

There are more and better gardens in Elmore, Coosa and Tallapoosa counties than ever before, according to the demonstration agents. The negro farmers are growing a greater variety of vegetables. Besides having plenty of garden products for home consumption, many of them have vegetables to sell, and thus the home gardens are doubly profitable. Furthermore they are planting a succession of crops, instead of allowing gardens to lie idle after the early crops have been harvested. These two developments of the movement for better gardens —the growing of a greater variety of vegetables and the planting of a succession of crops—are gratifying results. A report from Limestone county tells of another development. The negro farmers of Limestone are raising plants for themselves. Early in the spring several hotbeds were started in one community as a demonstration and a large supply of plants were provided. Thus the farmers saved money that otherwise would have been sent to other sections for plants.

A well managed garden will go a long way toward making the negro a successful farmer. The slogan, "Alabama must feed herself," should mean just as much to the negro as to the white farmer. The negro farmer can best do his part toward accomplishing that aim by raising as much as he possibly can of what he needs to feed himself and family.

A good garden helps out whether it be for whites or negroes; and it is more or less gratifying to read of this progress in other parts, for in Talladega county, with rare exceptions, one was not prepared to credit the negroes with as good a garden as they should have. They are improving, of course, but so far they have depended too largely on fall turnips and long legged collards to brag much on.

NEW USES FOR COTTON

The proposed conference in Birmingham, July 1, for the purpose of considering and acting upon possible and probable new uses for cotton promises results of no little importance. The fact that it was called by the Alabama Farm Bureau and the Extension Service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute of Auburn means that it has been thought through carefully and that constructive developments should be the outcome because these agencies have a record of not undertaking a project until it is considered thoroughly from every angle.

Advertiser
6-17-26

In order that every individual and every business concerned directly or indirectly may be represented, fifty of the leading farmers and business men of Alabama and a few from other States have been invited to be prepared to make contributions to the conference in the way of information. Certainly this group, who are among the outstanding men of the State in finance, merchandising and manufacturing, can discover new uses for cotton and thereby provide a bigger outlet for the South's white gold.

Montgomery
Constitution
6-29-26
Atlanta, Ga.

In calling the conference President O'Neal of the Farm Bureau and Prof. L. N Duncan of Auburn, made public a brief statement in which they set forth the situation in a very clear and convincing manner. They said:

> The present situation of cotton is such as to warrant the serious consideration of every person in the South because the social and business structure of the South is built around cotton. It is really a national problem in that it is the South's great cash crop and the largest export crop of the United States. Therefore, cotton does more than any other product to keep our international balance on the right side.
>
> Under the stimulus of higher prices our cotton acreage in Alabama and in all other Southern States has shown a remarkable increase and with better methods of fertilization and cultivation and boll weevil control, we are threatened with over-production for some time unless new outlets are provided. Believing that there are many additional ways in which cotton can be used to advantage, we are asking all those who are interested in the subject to meet us in Birmingham, Thursday, July 1, for the purpose of going into the subject from every angle and deciding what can be done.
>
> It is impossible to send personal invitations to all who should attend and for this reason the announcement is being made through the press. It is hoped that bankers, retail merchants, wholesale merchants, concrete manufacturers, fertilizer manufacturers and dealers, feed manufacturers, industrial leaders, representatives of the press, spinners, and other lines of business will be represented. Each person should come prepared to make a contribution to the conference.

Every person in the South, regardless of his or her business or profession, should be interested in this subject. As stated by Mr. O'Neal and Prof. Duncan, the price of cotton is certain to be lowered very materially with a steady increase in acreage and improvement in fertilization, boll weevil control, and methods of production unless new ways can be discovered and put into use for disposing of the crop. Hence, the Birmingham conference on July 1 is worthy of very careful thought and the cooperation of all forces, individuals, agencies and organizations.

LIVING AT HOME.

In a most interesting and instructive communication, published on this page today, Dr. Seale Harris, noted specialist of Birmingham, discusses the necessity for proper dieting in conserving health. He declares there should be a milk cow, a chicken yard, a garden, an orchard and a wheat and corn patch on every farm.

And by this, while providing the proper foods, the farmer will not only add to the comforts of living, and thus make farm life more attractive, but he will also solve the one great economic problem that confronts him.

It is a short-sighted farmer who does not have growing at all times everything that Dr. Harris suggests, not only to provide to all the required nourishment, but to save the expense of buying food products and turning the proceeds from money crops over to pay for the same.

Every farmer should feed himself and family out of his own production, and also feed all of the live stock used on the farm every month in the year.

The thrifty farmer usually keeps his barns and his smokehouses full, and the thrifty farm wife usually keeps poultry products also going to the market to provide her with the "pin money" that is so essential. Sometimes the "pin money" runs up into comfortable bank accounts.

The point is, farm life can be made the healthiest, heartiest and most attractive life in the world, if the farmer will make his first consideration the raising of feed and foods in plenty and thus make his so-called money crops entire surpluses.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser

OCT 11 1926

HARVESTER COMPANY'S MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMONSTRATION FARM

Three years ago the International Harvester Company established a demonstration farm about eight miles from Montgomery. The farm is located in the "Prairie" belt, the soil being ordinary lime land, a portion of which is post oak and the place as a whole being only a general average of what constitutes the Alabama Black Belt.

The farm consists of 320 acres, 50 acres being in woodland, and is what would constitute a farm for the average family where diversified farming is practiced.

This place had been in cultivation for practically one hundred years, most of the time in cotton and always cultivated under methods that took all from the soil and put nothing back. As a result of methods employed the soil had been depleted of nitrogen and humus and probably is deficient in potash.

The I. H. C. people are not interested in a show place nor are they interested in prize acres. Their object is to make a real demonstration of what can be done under ordinary circumstances, and in such a manner that others could accomplish the same things. This means that the place must pay its own way as it goes, and that soil fertility must increase without the use

of commercial fertilizer.

The first fall, 40 or 50 acres were planted in oats. A portion of the land was thoroughly broken and harrowed, while another portion was planted without the same careful methods of preparing a seed bed. It was demonstrated that the yield could be considerably increased by methods of cultivation. Within three years the production of oats has been increased 100 per cent.

Various attempts have been made to find a suitable legume for this type of soil. Ordinary sweet clover (mellilotus alba) and yellow sweet clover (mellilotus Indica) have been tried and found unsatisfactory. A portion of the land has been unsuccessful with cow peas but velvet beans have proven reasonably successful. However, the real problem is to find a legume that will grow where Johnson grass has already taken possession of the land. This year has demonstrated that soy beans are probably the best legume for this type of soil. When planted close in the drill and close in the rows they resist Johnson grass and produce a good crop. Of course the soy beans add the much needed nitrogen and humus to the soil, and also greatly improve tilth of the soil as the roots areate the land and increase capillary action.

Land planted in soy beans will bring a 50 per cent increase in corn the next year and will increase other crops almost in proportion.

From five to ten acres of cotton has been tried on the farm for three years and it has been fairly demonstrated that cotton planted on this type of soil without commercial fertilizer, or even with a reasonable amount of commercial fertilizer, is not as profitable as if the same amount of time and labor were devoted to other crops and activities on the farm.

The farm is operated by a manager with two regular negro laborers. On the place are two mules, one 15-30 tractor and one "Farm-all" tractor. Plowing is done with a tractor, and the "Farm-all" is used for the cultivation of crops and cutting hay.

The demonstration that is being attempted has necessarily been slow, for everything has been done so as to make the farm pay its way and to demonstrate that whatever is accomplished by the company could be accomplished by an individual operating a farm of this size. A complete system of books is kept, so there is no guess work.

Two hundred and fifty dollars worth of products have been sold off the farm since January 1, and 25 pigs, averaging about 175 pounds, and the surplus hay crop which will probably amount to about 75 tons, is yet to be sold, besides the regular monthly sale of dairy and poultry products. At the present time there are 15 grade Jersey cows, and two pure-bred Jersey bulls on the place. There are six pure-bred Duroc sows and one pure-bred Duroc boar, and 175 Barred Rock hens. Since January 1 the hens have averaged $2.60, the sows $100 and the cows $125. On the farm this year there are 50 acres in oats, 30 acres in corn, 50 acres in regular pasture, and the balance of the farm, with the exception of five acres in cotton, was devoted to hay and other forage crops, such as soy beans and sorghum, etc.

A very interesting demonstration has been made in planting Johnson hay with the use of stable manure during the winter months. The barns have been cleaned out each day and the manure spread on top of Johnson grass lands with an application of about four tons to the acre, with the sowing of about 16 pounds of Johnson grass seed without plowing. The yield of Johnson hay has been more than doubled. The yield has not only been doubled, but the texture has been greatly improved and consequently the grade of hay is better than the average. The rotation practiced on the farm will be legumes and Johnson grass hay followed by oats and legumes and then followed by corn and other grain.

The first three years indicates that a steady rotation, in the order named, will very soon double the yield of oats, corn and hay as well as other crops.

One of the important features of the farm is a big garden throughout the year. It has been clearly demonstrated that our prairie lands will successfully grow spring, fall and winter vegetables.

One of the very definite results of three years' operation has been the positive proof that butter-fat sold from the dairy cows yields greater profits than the sale of whole milk, for the skim milk fed to pigs and poultry means a well balanced farm, less time and expense and more profits then the sale of whole milk.

The farm is equipped with a five-room house, with a bath, and a barn big enough for four mules, and ten stanchions for dairy cows. There is a tool and implement shed sufficiently large to take care of all farm implements, a forty-ton wooden silo, a poultry house, a hay shed-barn, a pump house and a separator room with hot and cold water. The buildings and equipment are only such as an average family operating a farm of this size would find convenient and profitable.

The demonstration has gone far enough to indicate that twenty cows in milk, about 200 hens and 10 sows is the ideal amount of livestock to carry, and with this could probably be carried a few sheep and a few beef cattle, but this will come after the production of grain and hay has increased sufficiently to justify it.

A small amount of cottonseed meal is the only thing that is bought for use on the farm. It has been found that a small amount of cottonseed meal mixed with silage composed of one part corn and two parts sorghum is an economical dairy feed.

All corn will be sold through livestock on the farm, while dairy products, poultry products, surplus hay and surplus vegetables will constitute the cash crops, together with hogs, sheep and beef cattle.

There are five million acres in the Black Belt of Alabama, and it might be well for the land owners of the State to follow carefully the demonstration being made by the International Harvester Company on its 320-acre farm in Montgomery county. It should be borne in mind that they are not attempting to do anything that cannot be done by the average farmer in the Black Belt. They are simply demonstrating what is and what is not successful on the average prairie soils of the Black Belt.

The Rotten System of the River Beats

It is best to be plain, to call a spade a spade, even though it may be grating to some of our farmers. Some of the land owners of the Black Belt find pride in believing they are good business men. They are not, for with their present system of giving away money, any reasonable commission might judge them to be fit subjects for a certain institution in Tuscaloosa. Last Christmas the farmers of the river beats made a Christmas present of $100,000 to their tenants. It should be called a present, because 90 per cent of the Christmas money advanced will be unpaid and 70 per cent of it is still owed to the banks by the farmers.

The Progress wishes to commend the sound business system of the Faulk Brothers of Booth. A member of this firm recently stated to the editor of the Progress that the firm had many tenants, that nothing was advanced them until February or March and then only enough to assist them during about four months and such an amount that could be repaid during an adverse year in farming. In consequence of this system about all their tenants had paid up in full by November and they would have no further trouble or annoyance until next March. If all the Black Belt had adopted that system tenants would expect it and all would be independent, prosperous and happy. There is really no reason for a depressed time in the river beats. That section has made large crops and with reasonable economy would be in a good financial condition with reasonable judgment in advancing. Many land owners in the past have denied their own families to let tenants have Christmas money and they felt reasonably sure at the time they would never be repaid. Such tenants have been an expensive luxury.

We have a great and wonderful section and one of the best on earth. We deserve progress and prosperity, and if our farmers would adopt the system of the Faulk Brothers we would soon have the best section of the world. The white land owners are themselves responsible for their weakness in allowing themselves to be forced into such a system as the one of the past. Very few land owners, with the present low price of cotton, will be financially able to give away much Christmas money this year if they have any desire to do so. However, the river beats of Autauga county have the reputation of being the most extravagant of any section of the South. We are now realizing that fact.—Prattville Progress.

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Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Gazette

OCT 12 1926

From the People

Negro Farmer Urges Acreage Cut and Diversification.

To the Editor of the Gazette:

I notice that the farmers of our beloved Southland are being appealed to to hold their cotton for the purpose of securing better prices. It is practically impossible for a large majority of them to comply, simply because their creditors demand that they bring their cotton in settlement of their debts. Then too, every farmer wishes to harvest his crops as early as possible to avoid the loss incurred by weather conditions.

But why appeal to them now? Would it not be wiser for him to reduce the acreage and let the great natural law of "supply and demand" demonstrate its beneficial influence? Artificial prices, secured by legislation, is unsound and will not stand the test, because no power has the right to regulate prices, for the great output of our farms and factories the great element of supply and demand must be recognized.

Where is the wisdom, if you please, in annually producing a sixteen million bale crop when the prices received fail to meet the cost of production? If I produce a commodity that costs me 15 cents a pound to market and receive 10 cents a pound for it, how can I ever hope to pay my creditors or get anything ahead? This is exactly the condition that confronts us farmers today.

In what material way am I benefited by the production of a large crop of cotton out of which I do not get a dollar? I was reared on the farm and frankly admit that I love the life. Although a negro, I have learned that producing a cotton crop alone to supply all other needs is a sad mistake and leads only to loss and suffering. It is not for me to dictate what your policy should be, but the man who drives the plow and handles the hoe must learn that his salvation rests not with any political party or organization, but solely with him and his banker. Let the banker, merchant and farmer get together, reduce the cotton acreage, adopt a system of diversified farming, encourage the farmer to produce more and better food and feed stuff for both man and beast.

By doing this we will soon have better and happier homes, more and better schools, finer highways and a happier, law abiding and contented people.

This can be done for we have a most favorable climatic condition and richness of soil unequalled. Will not the farmers and business men of our beloved sun-kissed land take advantage of the wonderful resources of our grand old commonwealth, bringing prosperity and happiness to all and placing it in the forefront of the sisterhood of states?

James F. Berry.

Little Rock, Oct. 11.

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The Farm the Negro's Best Chance.

By KELLY MILLER, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

[Kelly Miller writes as one of the leaders of the colored race. He was educated at Howard University and Johns Hopkins University, and at present is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Howard University and professor of mathematics. The advice given in the following article in regard to the negro staying on the farm is suggestive of the close acquaintanceship of the writer with the needs of his own race.—Editor Manufacturers Record.]

The world today is city mad. This urban craze is sweeping the globe like wildfire. The invention of machinery and the rise of modern industrialism necessitate localized bases of operation. In response to this demand, the population is flocking into crowded centers in all parts of the world. The large cities of the world show a greater increment during the past and present centuries than during all centuries of their previous existence. This unprecedented cityward tendency reaches its climax in the United States, where the urban component already has surpassed the rural, and is growing by alarming leaps and bounds.

Manufacturers Record
9-5-26

To assert that the negro's best chance is on the farm, in spite of the nation-wide and world-wide tendency to the contrary, is tantamount to the assumption that his economic welfare is governed by special and peculiar considerations. Booker T. Washington lived and died in the belief that, on the whole, the black man would find his best opportunity on the farm. But the progress of events plays havoc with the finality of human judgments. Booker T. Washington had scarcely been dead a year before the involvements of the World War frustrated all previous opinions and calculations as to the negro's part in the general economic fabric. The necessities of the war created a vacuum in the labor market in the North. The negro rushed in to fill that vacuum.

This northern migration was not the result of any existing policy. No one foresaw or desired it, but it was wholly an unwilled process which grew out of the exigency of events. During the past 10 years fully 1,000,000 negroes have been transferred from the South to the cities of the North. The inrush into Southern cities has been almost as marked. What the Southern cities lose by northern migration they gain by fresh intake from the country, and serve as halfway stations in the drift from country to city.

The industrial demand created by the war and its aftermath will doubtless continue the demand for negro industrial reinforcement for some time to come. The negro has fitted into the new lines of Northern industry with a commendable degree of success. That a promiscuous horde of crude laborers, used to the loose and inexact methods of Southern agriculture, should so quickly have adjusted themselves to the more exacting discipline and efficiency of the exactions of the Northern standards of industrial pursuits is, indeed, creditable to the industrial capacity and adaptability of the race. Black labor, after those who are unable or unwilling to stand the test have been sifted out, will be welcome as an offset to the foreign supply excluded by the immigration policy.

But, after all, this can be looked upon only as an experiment and a temporary expedient which will provide for only a comparatively small proportion of the race for a time whose duration cannot now be determined. When the impulse of the war shall have spent its force and these Northern industries shall have settled down to their normal ways, Booker Washington's philosophy will be found to be basically sound as a comprehensive policy for most of the negroes.

The negro will always be at a serious disadvantage on account of the attitude of the white workingman. Commerce, manufacturing and mechanical pursuits readily lend themselves to labor organizations where the whites claim a monopoly based on racial prerogative. The negro, in the main, finds himself restricted to personal and domestic service and to the cruder forms of nondescript work. The policy of white labor throughout the world is neither to compete nor to combine with the non-white workingman, but to exclude him from the arena of competition by the sheer force of racial dominance. This policy we find in operation in Australia, Canada and South Africa and in all parts of the world where there is a conflict of color. The white man is loath to do the same kind of work at the same time, under the same condition and at the same rate of remuneration as the non-whites, as being derogatory to his racial dignity and prestige. To undertake to analyze the nature, cause or cure of this racial intolerance would, indeed, be an engaging theme for philosophical speculation, but would have little or no practical bearing upon the actualities of the situation with which we are now called upon to deal.

In the cities, North and South alike, the negro still lingers around the outer edge of industry as an incidental fact rather than an essential factor. The black man is being eliminated as waiter, barber and butler, not by reason of his inefficiency or ineptitude in these so-called servile callings, but because the white workingman is seeking to enlarge the domain of his opportunities and is pushing downward into the lower levels of occupation and pushing out the weaker incumbent. The Pullman porter constitutes the only occupation in which the negro so far has been shielded from white encroachment. The negro may not be a steam engineer or a street-car motorman, not because he lacks steadiness and judgment, but because such innovation would be intruding upon the reserved occupations of the preferred race. It does seem ridiculous to assert that a negro chauffeur who can skilfully guide an automobile along the most crowded thoroughfare, where there is no fixed track or guiding lines for his vehicle, cannot operate a street car as a motorman, where the grooved track leaves him nothing to do but to start and stop at the ringing of the motor bell. But the caste spirit forbids. There are encouraging instances of exceptions here and there, but none to justify the expectation that the negro will be given an even break in the battle for bread within any time with which we may now concern ourselves.

The negro shows little developed aptitude or disposition to enter into city business and thus create and direct his own opportunity. He seldom buys and sells commodities with a view of gaining a livelihood on the marginal profit. He is practically self-excluded from this vast field of urban activities. Of the 200,000 negroes in the Harlem section of New York city not a single negro could outfit himself with wearing apparel or equip his household with furniture and utensils by dealing with members of his own race. I am not now dealing with theories, but with indisputable facts which seriously limit the negro's field as a competitor in the sphere of city industries.

When we turn to the country the relativity of the situation is entirely different. He has neither the intolerance of racial rivalry nor the relative disadvantages which confront him in the city. The factors are easier to handle, and he has a fund of experience which enables him to cope with his environment.

The farming industry does not so easily lend itself to labor organization, which always operates to his disadvantage. An acre of land will bring forth the same harvest under negro as under white tillage. The markets are color-blind. The price of the produce has no relation to the color of the producer. He is not crushed between the upper and nether millstones of large aggregation of capital on the one hand and the counter-aggregation of white labor on the other. Large farms can hardly be operated profitably like the great industrial establishments. The mammoth agricultural estates are breaking up into family-size farms, where the single household constitutes the unit of production. Here the negro labors under little or no relative disadvantage as compared with the white farmer. The partial separation of the workers, even on adjacent farms, estops the argument of social equality, which counts so tellingly against the negro in occupational opportunity in the city. The black man's adaptability to agricultural pursuits is universally conceded. He is becoming his own proprietor, either as owner or renter of his farm. The last census reveals over 900,000 negro farmers, over 200,000 of whom owned their own farms. This would imply that nearly 5,000,000 negroes on the farms are self-proprietors or are rapidly on the road to proprietorship. The farmer deals with the primary tools of industry and learns the secret of doing things at first hand. The city negro is for the most part a hired man, and is engaged in subsidiary service, best described as "help." The ownership of a farm is importantly different from the ownership of a city home. The farm is an instrument of production, the basis of an independent livelihood. On the other hand, the city home is a dead, non-productive, inactive value. The owner is compelled to seek an employer in order to gain his daily bread.

On account of mounting prices it is becoming more and more difficult for the common laborer, white or black, to own a city home. In New York the cost is practically pro-

hibitive. Less than 12 per cent of the total population of the metropolis are homeowners. The percentage of negro homeowners is all but negligible. All of the larger cities are tending to the same prohibitive level. The Harlem negro constitutes practically an ownerless race. Without ownership there is little incentive to sustained endeavor. Any industrious, intelligent, purposeful young man who will devote his energies to that end may reasonably hope to own a farm which will yield him a livelihood within a few years.

It is a truism, as old as political and economic discussion, that the people who own the means of production will count in the control of the policy of society. Those who have no share in the ownership of the means of production will have little effective say in regulating the controlling regime. The city negro has little more share in the ownership of the means of production than the man in the moon. On the other hand, his ownership and tillage of the land form a respectable and increasing proportion.

As the population becomes more and more congested, greater and heavier responsibilities will rest upon the soil. The value rises as the pressure increases. The cotton area, with which the negro is most familiar, is sharply limited by geographic and climatic conditions. The world supply mainly depends upon the Southern states, which, in turn, depend mainly upon the negro for the production of this indispensable staple. This is the one essential large industry in which he figures as an indispensable factor. For him at this time to desert the cotton field for the haphazard advantages of the city would be economic short-sightedness, amounting to fatuity.

In rushing to the city the negro is merely following the blind impulse to imitate the white man, but without his motive, reason or end in view. The two races have a different industrial raison d'etre, so far as city activities are concerned. The glare and glitter allure him on as the moth is allured by the candle. On nearer approach, alas, he, too often meets the fate of the foolish moth. The negro is swayed to and fro by the onrushing tide, as a leaf on the crest of the wave. The northern movement, due to the World War, took on the hysteria of a hegira. Race prejudice, political policy and other features served as aggravating factors. The main motive, however, was economic. The race has withdrawn from the rural sections of the North more rapidly than from the farms of the South. The total rural negro population in all of the states outside the South decreased from 267,747 in 1890 to 221,997 in 1920, while the urban contingency rose in the same time from 433,271 to 1,220,312. In the border states, where the negro has full political rights, the decline of the rural element is strikingly noticeable. He is rapidly leaving the rich rural sections of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri for the big cities in these states and in the further north. He never migrates to the farms of the North and West. He somehow feels that the larger the city the better the time.

It might be conceded that the lot of the farmer is at present a hard one. His hours are long, his task arduous and his returns seem meager as compared with the city worker. His children have inferior facilities for education. The hardships and deprivation are many. The white farmer and farm worker are prone to quit these hard conditions for the city, with its vista of larger promise and outlook. While the negro on the farm may have to undergo equal or even greater hardship than his fellow white agricultural worker, yet the city does not hold out to him the same prospect. The negro is placed at a disadvantage in any task which he may undertake. He is forced to undergo the greater burden of hardship in order to reap the same advantage in any field of endeavor. In the city he finds his relative disadvantage greatly heightened. He must learn to value what the white man resigns. The reasons which induce the white man to leave the farm should induce the negro to take it up. The Italian takes up the abandoned farms and makes them bloom and blossom as the rose. The agricultural opportunity looms large for the negro not merely in the South, but also in the North and West.

The negro race will more likely overcome its present commercial disability by learning to conduct the farming activities in a businesslike way than by trying to compete with the white man in the city, who has him hopelessly handicapped by the double disadvantage of race prejudice and experience. The white race acquired its business ability by long proprietorship as farm owner and manager.

No one in his senses would advocate that all negroes should remain on the farm. The city offers wonderful opportunities for a few negroes of leadership and learning. Many will find betterment of condition in the ordinary occupations. In the final analysis, each negro, like each white person, must determine the question for himself. But, if we take calmly a dispassionate view of the probable outcome of urban and rural negro life, we will be convinced that the country offers for the mass of the race the better opportunity. Many negroes will and should resort to the cities to gain whatever advantages they may offer for progress and advancement. No sensible counsellor would urge all negroes to remain in the country, any more than he would have them all come to the city. There should, as in the case of the white race, be a sensible proportion and just balance between the two components. But it is too apparent for argument that the present conditions clearly indicate that a much larger proportion of negroes than of whites will find their best chance in the country.

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THE COTTON FARMER AND THE NEGRO

Birmingham Ledger 10-23-26

The question of the moment in the South is, What shall we do about the low price of cotton? The question is pertinent and it must affect the Negro, who raises the larger portion of it. The crop is made and practically harvested. It will keep without losing weight or quality, but, to the man who has no surplus, any method of holding it for a higher price involves interest, storage, insurance and other charges growing out of the financing. So that any good method of financing the crop will be of great advantage to those whose immediate needs do not require the cash to be tied up in the process, but those who must borrow on their holdings are robbing Peter of about as much as they will be able to pay Paul.

Any plan of marketing that will affect the price will be an improvement over no plan at all. But, in any case, this is only a temporary treatment of an old evil, and it can only be effective in emergencies that do not often occur.

It seems that the Southern Negro cannot stay on the farm if he does not raise cotton, and it is either a matter of raising cotton or going to populated centers for public work. This is the sad error that brings about the trouble both in the city and in the rurals.

Birmingham Post

There is no difference between making money and making a living, when the money made goes for the comforts and necessities of life. Life on the farm has its superior advantages which come from education that evaluates the difference between making money and making a living.

Raising cotton on poor land is gambling with fate, with the odds on the side of poverty. From the viewpoint of acquiring the comforts of life, an acre of land will yield as much of anything in value as it will in cotton, and with more certainty and vastly less of trouble and labor. But the South has learned to depend on cotton as its money crop and it is as hard to educate it away from this as it is to educate it away from some other of its traditional handicaps.

Agricultural extension in the form of movable schools is doing good in the direction of increased appreciation of rural problems, but this scratching of the surface of the life problems in the rural South can only emphasize the methods of making money. The problems of life are internally social, religious and political, and it takes no less of energy and application to reach them in the rural than in the city. It is a question of education—not particular in quality or kind, but certainly not different from that through which all other human beings are evolved.

The trouble about the price of cotton, the one crop situation, the heedless waste of energy and substance under a year around agricultural climate made mild and wholesome by the Southern sun is the ignorance that fails to give significance to its advantages.

The South puzzles itself over the question of what to do about its cotton. In the meantime, it must have money to buy its milk, butter, cheese, hay, corn, canned vegetables and thousands of necessities coming from industries elsewhere that are choked back by the traditional ignorance that crowns its follies here.

The Southern Negro raises cotton. He goes the limit on it. He knows of nothing else to raise. He has little chance to know about anything else. Diversification, to him, is a theory. He hopes to buy the comforts of life from the returns of his cotton crop. If the price is high, he sells. If the price is low, he sells just the same. He must sell because this is his first and only chance in the year to get the pay for months of toil. High price or low price, it looks good to him when his needs for money are most urgent.

And there will not be much change in the situation for him nor much success in managing the market to keep the price stable until there comes a change in attitude that will allow him opportunities to know, to appreciate and to enjoy the things that make labor productive and life hopeful and fruitful as to other people. Production can only be permanently controlled by intelligence.

The State of Michigan is now making an effort, through its interior department, to rehabilitate its farms. It is offering inducements to Negroes as a means of reducing unemployment about the cities and utilizing the experiences of former farmers, both to its advantage and the advantage of those Negroes who have come from Southern farms in search of better conditions under which to live and labor.

Perhaps, after all, this might prove to be a means of stabilizing the price and production of cotton in the South, as well as a means of solving some other problems of long standing and stubborn resistance.

MICHIGAN CALLS FOR COLORED FARMERS

Chicago Tribune 10-31-26

Lansing, Mich., Oct. 15.—In keeping with that part of the program dealing with the rehabilitation of Michigan farm lands, the Division of Negro Welfare and statistics of the state announces the wealth of opportunity afforded Negro farmers in locating in various agricultural sections of this state.

The steady decrease in the number of operated farms and the continual stream of farm folks cityward, is having its effect in both avenues of life. Each fall finds a greater number of vacant farm properties and a larger list of unemployed in the city. In the latter case, because of racial lines, the Negro suffers more severely than the white workman and it is the hope of the division to help the Negro who has had agricultural training in securing a fuller measure of independence by taking over one of the many attractive offers to be found.

It is pointed out that the fall of the year is the ideal time to consider these locations as that season of the year marks the movement from the farm, with many farmers eager to rent or sell their property after the crops have been gathered and disposed of. For the benefit of the tenant or purchaser, the winter months offer the opportunity of establishing and preparing for the spring sowing.

NEGRO FARMERS

There are 88 negro farmers per 1,000 of their racial population as compared with 58 white farmers per 1,000 white inhabitants. These negro farmers operate land in farms equal to 2.2 per cent of the total land area of the United States, and if the land occupied by them was placed acre to acre it would form a belt about two and a half miles wide that would encircle the earth at its widest circumference. Contributing to the agricultural resources of the nation are 92 colored women dairy-farm operators, 28 stock raisers, and 79,773 general farm operators.

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W. S. SCARBOROUGH WRITES OF FARMING

Washington, D. C., June 11.—William Saunders Scarborough, formerly a specialist in farm studies with the United States bureau of agricultural economics, is the author of a bulletin released this week by the federal department of agriculture. "Farm and Ownership Among the Farmers in Southampton County, Va.," is the subject of the pamphlet.

"In the South," says Professor Scarborough, "agriculture has been and still is the principal economic activity of the Race. The Race population of the 16 southern states, including Delaware, constituted in 1860 92.2 per cent of the total Race population of the United States. In 1920, regardless of the fact that the Race had been free for [illegible] cent of them still lived in the southern states. They constituted 27 per cent of the population of those states and 22 per cent of them live in the rural districts. Approximately 29 per cent of all the farms in these states are operated by them.

"Since the World war industrial and agricultural conditions have been such as to cause an unprecedented wave of emigration from the South to northern industrial centers. This migration is in part of the result of the general nation-wide movement from country to city. Unquestionably, however, there are other potent influences responsible.

"These influences raise the question of the future economic condition of the Race farmers. The present study was undertaken to reveal the conditions in a selected district of southern Virginia to determine the extent of the progress."

FARMERS RAISE ONE THIRD OF U. S. COTTON

Fifty-Seven Per Cent Of Southern Males Are Farm Workers Says Report

GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS POOR

Homes Not Properly Ventilated Or Screened. Few Cows Raised

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Our farmers raise 39 per cent of the cotton produced in the United States and 21 per cent of the sweet potatoes.

The above figures are taken from the report on vocational training in agriculture just issued by the Federal Board of Vocational Education.

According to the figures, the colored farmer also raises 14 per cent of the tobacco, nine percent of the rice, 3½ percent of the corn and one percent of the white potatoes.

Fifty percent of colored males in 17 southern states are employed in farming. The average farm is 50 acres. The average white farm is 119 acres. Seventy-two percent of our farmers are renters as compared with 38 percent of the whites.

Our farmers' standard of living is low, says the report. In most cases he could provide himself with improved living facilities of little cost other than his own labor.

For example, many of our farmers' homes are simply sheltered to keep out rain and cold without proper means of ventilation and no screens to keep out mosquitoes and flies.

Pork and Corn Bread

If a farmer gets plenty of pork and corn bread, he feels he has sufficient and proper food for his family regardless of his real need for vegetables and milk. Farmers are raising fewer cows than they ought to.

Our farmer is regarded as a free and careless spender, but is willing to sacrifice to secure the things which he wants. The report recommends that vocational departments of agriculture shall be established in all rural high schools and that the day school program shall be continued but that special attention shall be given to part time schools and evening schools which agricultural teachers shall be expected to conduct.

Classes, according to the report shall consist of from 40 to 75 pupils and the support of school patrons and officials should be sought.

THE HOPE OF THE FARM SITUATION IN THE SOUTH

The American farmer is wondering why it is that the post-war prosperity wave has not had the effect on the prices of farm land and farm products as on the equipment and output in other industries.

There has been a steady decrease in values of farm lands and farm products since 1919. Considering that agriculture is a basic industry, it seems odd that farm lands should decrease in value. But the constant flow of the population cityward and the increase of rapid transportation between cities has made large farms undesirable.

It is also true that methods of canning and conserving food products eliminated much of the waste of years ago and reduced the amount of products necessary to be raised and kept by individuals.

With the extension of electric power and good roads, the automobile and modern farm machinery will revolutionize farming. The same principles that govern large industries and large systems of transportation must eventually be applied in a very large measure to agriculture to redeem the value of farm land and raise the level of the farm industry to cope with other industries in its scope and organization.

There is no hope of getting the Negro, too recently transplanted from the farm into the city, back to the farm in any appreciable numbers except with capital as an operator or as a unit of labor in a system where the ways and methods of labor have been modernized.

The small farmer, like the small merchants and manufacturers, may exist yet for a long time, but, among Negroes and poor whites at a distance from large markets, the opportunity to buy large bodies of land cheap will not come again after the highways have been completed and electrical power will have been distributed. The back-to-the-farm movement among Negroes must be initiated either by the lead of capital and modern systematic agriculture or by an industrial catastrophe in large industrial centers forcing the movement as the only means of obtaining a livelihood.

The eventual distribution of the Negro throughout America appears to be the utlimate end of the migration movement begun by the war and the boll weevil. The initiation of this movement was an act of God resulting in a redistribution of the colored population. There are thousands of acres of waste land in the South made so by the migration of Negroes and the tendency toward smaller farms on account of intense cultivation.

This acreage will be increased gradually until scientific methods of agriculture, modern methods of management, and invested capital reclaim it.

SUCCESS IS OURS

Eugene Meyer, Jr., chairman of the President's Cotton Committee, on his return to Washington after a swing through the South to aid in organizing finance corporations to relieve the cotton situation, says the capital needed to stabilize cotton is fully assured. He praises the South for the way it has met the situation, saying that the leadership, intelligence and money of the South are solving the problem.

A total of $16,000,000 is being raised in the South to finance the holding of 4,000,000 bales. Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina are raising $1,000,000 each; Louisiana and Lower Mississippi, $1,000,000; Texas, $5,000,000; Oklahoma, $2,000,000; the Memphis territory, including Upper Mississippi, Eastern Arkansas, Tennessee, Southeastern Missouri and Kentucky, $2,750,000; Western Arkansas, $1,250,000. "The capital for this proposition is fully assured," says Mr. Meyer. "There is plenty of money in the South, and some of it will be used for this cotton emergency. The plan is simple and effective. The purpose is to bring about the orderly marketing of the crop, and to discourage dumping."

The plan is simple, indeed. Its purposes are only those described by Mr. Meyer, and one other, namely, the reduction of cotton acreage next year. The financing of the plan is assured, and the acreage is certain to be reduced.

Alabama, like the rest of the South, is losing no time in raising the money needed. Montgomery is doing its share; bankers and commercial leaders have formulated definite plans to raise Montgomery's quota of $250,000, a fourth of the stock in the finance corporation necessary to float a cotton pool in Alabama.

Although Alabama is raising only $1,000,000, the cotton pool in this state will amount to $10,000,000, for under the plan that has been adopted, each finance corporation receives ten times the amount of its capitalization in credit from the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks. Thus, the total credit of the South, on its capital of $16,000,000, will be $160,000,000.

With this credit, the success of the movement to save the cotton situation is assured. Already its effect is being felt, both from a business and a psychological standpoint, and it will be felt even more within a short while, when the capitalization is completed and the machinery of organized holding and orderly marketing is put in full operation.

THE NEGRO'S HOPE.

Under the caption, "The Farm the Negro's Best Chance," Professor Kelly Miller, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Howard university, and a leader of his race, emphasizes the economic necessity, in the present urban craze, for negroes to remain on the farms. In a statement featured by the Manufacturers Record Professor Miller says:

"No one in his senses would advocate that all negroes should remain on the farm. The city offers wonderful opportunities for a few negroes of leadership and learning. Many will find betterment of condition in the ordinary occupations. In the final analysis, each negro, like each white

person, must determine the question for himself. But, if we take calmly a dispassionate view of the probable outcome of urban and rural negro life, we will be convinced that the country offers for the mass of the race the better opportunity. Many negroes will and should resort to the cities to gain whatever advantages they may offer for progress and advancement. No sensible counsellor would urge all negroes to remain in the country, any more than he would have them all come to the city. There should, as in the case of the white race, be a sensible proportion and just balance between the two components. But it is too apparent for argument that the present conditions clearly indicate that a much larger proportion of negroes than of white will find their best chance in the country."

This is precisely the position taken by the late Booker T. Washington. He devoted the last 20 years of his life to preaching it and teaching it, and to the development of a great institution that fitted negro boys and girls for profitable and happy farm life. He died believing that he had won. But the industrial cataclysm caused by the world war turned the tide the other way. The labor vacuum in the manufacturing centers of the north and east sought its solution by recruiting negro labor from the south. The exodus to the north began in 1920. Since that time the entire country has been city mad. The rural population—white and black—has been flocking to the crowded centers for six years, and in consequence, for the first time in history, the census department has found in 1926 a startling decrease in cultivated acreage throughout the country. We know what the abandoned farm situation has been and is in the south. It is gratifying therefore that sound and thoughtful negro leaders like Professor Miller are determined if possible to arrest this movement, and turn the negro tide back to rural life.

It is the only solution of the negro's economic and social problems. Good citizenship is based upon home ownership. In Harlem, the largest negro settlement in the world, there are less than 1 per cent of the half million negroes who own property of any kind. They rent their living apartments, their places of business, their furniture. They accumulate nothing. The pay envelope may be bigger than they had been accustomed to get on the farms in the south, but by Monday they are back into the clutches of the wage loan sharks. They exist—with broken health, and with no hope for the morrow.

In the country the situation is entirely different.

The last census revealed over 900,000 negro farmers, more than 200,000 of whom owned their own farms. This would indicate that fully 1,000,000 rural negroes sleep under the roofs of proprietorship. Again the ownership of a farm means productivity. It is different in that respect from the ownership of a city home.

An ownerless race is a hopeless race. Therefore the farm—the ownership of a definite means of adding to the material welfare and to the accumulating increments of industry—is the hope of the negro.

Southern Cotton Growers Face Future Competition From South America, Claim

Conditions Throughout Extensive Areas of Argentine Are Called Favorable for Development

Washington, August —(AP)— Cotton growers of the south may have to reckon in the future with competition from the temperate climate regions of South America, particularly those in the Argentine and Paraguay, according to announcement of Leon M. Estabrook, formerly agricultural commissioner of the federal department of agriculture, who has for two years been engaged in agricultural reporting service for the Argentine government.

The purpose of Mr. Estabrook's study was to determine the importance of South American agriculture in the world markets and as a competitor of the United States in the marketing of crops of which this country produces a surplus.

Conditions throughout extensive areas of Argentina are highly favorable, he believes, for the development of a great industry in cotton, tobacco, fruits, protein grass and seed crops and possibly of sugar cane. Only about one-sixth of the Argentir cereal belt, which is as large as the corn belt of the United States, is at present under cultivation.

Paraguay Soils Good.

Paraguay with a good semi-tropical climate and good soils, has at present less than 1 per cent of her fertile lands under cultivation.

"We may expect that in the future much of the marvelous development that has taken place in the United States during the last half century will be duplicated to a considerable extent in the temperate regions of South America," said Mr. Estabrook, who is now director of the world agricultural census to be taken in 1930 by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

"Aregentine," he said, "has a cereal region as large and as fertile as the corn belt of the United States, but only about 16.2 per cent of it is in cultivation. Except for limited areas that are too wet, the whole region is ideal for crop production and can be brought under cultivation merely by breaking the sod. The wet areas can easily be drained.

Since the potential cereal area is now used as alfalfa pasture live stock production will probably decrease with the expansion of agriculture. On the other hand, the quality of live stock may improve and dairy production may be expected to increase greatly in quantity, quality and value."

Mr. Estabrook believes that natural conditions are favorable to the development of a prosperous cotton and tobacco industry in northeastern Argentina.

SOUTH'S CRYING NEED.

The Wall Street Journal, of New York, is taking a keen interest in the southern cotton situation, with an evident purpose to be of service, if practicable, in helping find a solution of the problem. It says:

"Crop diversification is a crying need of the South. Nature fitted that section for the storehouse of the country's food, to a large extent. Yet if it were suddenly cut off from outside communication and no change made in the agriculture, it would starve. What should be the most productive area of the United States, does not feed itself."

The Journal then publishes an interesting survey recently made by E. J. Bodman, vice president of the Union Trust Company of Little Rock, in which some rather startling statistics appear. They relate to the situation in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas, as follows:

	Number	Pct. of all farms
Total farmers	2,559,435	100
White farmers	1,708,494	67
Colored farmers	841,941	33
Farmers raising cotton	1,872,236	73
Farmers who raised no corn	299,827	12
Farmers who raised no hay or forage	1,382,918	54
Farmers who raised no oats	2,185,506	86
Raised no pigs	1,438,544	56
Made no butter	1,172,726	46
Had no dairy cow	945,333	37
Raised no chickens	950,980	33
No sweet potatoes	1,481,297	58
No Irish potatoes	2,005,393	79
No cane for syrup	1,942,445	76
No purebred animals	2,415,966	95
Had no garden	597,247	23

The Journal has the following to say of Georgia:

"The one cheering fact is that in the past five years Georgia has been feeling its way along the road of crop diversification and is making considerable progress. This year, when cotton is selling below cost of production, it is not so entirely the mainstay as formerly. Georgia is learning to do what all the southern states must learn—to make cotton the surplus crop, over and above the living of the farm family. To do otherwise is like pouring water in a sieve."

It is gratifying that the farmers of this state are learning to balance their production, and to make cotton and other money crops surpluses.

While marked progress has been made there is a far way yet to go, however, before the Georgia farmers will be growing, as they should, what they are sending money to other states, less favored with production opportunities, to buy.

Agriculture-1926
Condition of.

General

KING COTTON TAKES THE STAGE

Another Stirring Drama in Which He Plays the Leading Role Is Brought About by This Year's Huge Crop—The Outcome Is of Decisive Importance for the Country's Agriculture

By FRANK BOHN

A FEW years ago all the inhabitants of a small town in Alabama assembled for an occasion which was at once solemn and ludicrous. A monument had been erected in honor of the cotton boll weevil. Now it was to be dedicated. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered. Eloquent speeches, indicative of esteem and respect for the hard-working insect, were made by the leading citizens. The weevil has been by far the greatest implement in the agricultural history of America. It destroys millions of acres of cotton. Then why the monument? Because of a double factor: the increase in the diversification of crops and the advance in the price of cotton the boll weevil did not eat.

The urbanite who studies present agricultural conditions must be prepared for most surprising paradoxes—cotton and the weevil, for example. At last the Southern farmers, by the use of enormous quantities of poison and machines to spray it on the cotton plants, seem to be winning the battle against the weevil. They have proved, at least, that they can win it during a dry season, such as this one has been. But it has been their success which has put them in a hole. Their cotton crop totals nearly eighteen millions of bales. Millions of Southern cotton farmers will not have money enough this year to meet the essential expenses of their living.

The conventional answer to the farmer's question, "What is the matter with my job?" has always been, "We have here the economic law of supply and demand, and, of course, economic laws cannot be changed to suit even the farmers."

The Southern farmers listened to the economic theorist in silence before the day of the weevil. Taught by the Good Book to learn industry from the ant, they have now proceeded to learn a new economic theory from the cotton bug. Until very recently the farmers accepted the view that there was something sacred and immutable about "supply and demand." But the weevil taught them this: A small total crop is better for the farmers as a class than a large crop. The 16,000,000 bales produced in 1914 paid the farmers $549,000,000. With the help of the weevil there were produced, in 1923, 9,762,000 bales, for which the farmer received $1,572,000,000; two years later a 13,000,000-bale crop sold for $1,470,000,000, and this was not before, but after, the deflation of farm prices generally.

Again the total sums up to nearly 18,000,000 bales; so our South, the Far South, suffers pain, poverty and disillusionment. Before these million farm families, and squarely in the way of all their progress and happiness, there stands one colossal problem: How can they do, through organization, what the boll weevil did without expense or effort to them? Shall they take their troubles into politics and carry them to Washington, there to join forces with the wheat and corn farmers of the West? If this be done, then Congress and the President would undoubtedly listen to what they had to say. For, joined together for a raid on Washington, our Western and Southern farmers would compel the most earnest attention. That cotton, corn and wheat might elect President and Congress in 1928 is more than a political pipe dream. Or shall they solve their own problems through cooperative control of economic forces?

It is the economic maps, the maps which show the production and distribution of commodities, which interest the understanding mind today. The map of the coal and iron deposits in the valley of the Rhine explains, at a glance, the new and solid peace between France and Germany. Mark off our three great crop belts—cotton, wheat and corn—and we can see the cause for the largest forces of political unrest now at work in this country.

Wheat dominates the rural mind from Minnesota to Eastern Washington. Corn is master from Western Ohio to Western Iowa. Corn and wheat share power in many areas, such as Kansas and Nebraska. But King Cotton has been dominant in the South for over a century. His rule extends from Eastern North Carolina to the Rio Grande. In the fertile State of Oklahoma, corn, wheat and cotton are a triumvirate of economic motive and political power.

While wheat and corn are comparatively new forces in American political life, cotton boasts a puissant and colorful past. Nearly a century has passed since it came to dominate the political mind of the South. Coming to early maturity as a national economic and political force, cotton contributed a large share to the greatest of all dramas, the most terrible of all tragedies, in our national history.

Except for the Dakotas in the wheat belt, and Iowa in the corn belt, no section has so completely surrendered to the single crop tyranny as the lowland South over these 600,000 square miles. Nowhere else, in the history of modern Western civilization, has the cruelty of a single economic force been written so large into the history of a great people. Behold, then, the stage of our country's life again set for the scene in which King Cotton is to play a leading part.

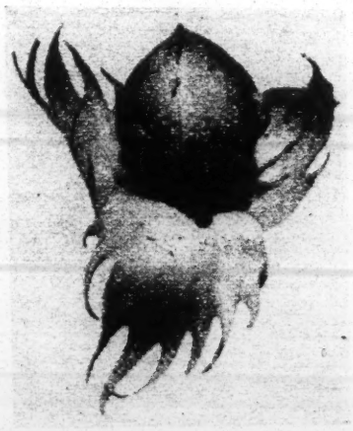
Take a further look at the setting. Here are 600,000 square miles of lowlands. The like of this area has nowhere else been presented to mankind by the gods of the land. Everything considered, this is the most productive large agricultural unit in the world. In many parts a consistent soil culture for a decade will produce one bale, in some cases two bales, of cotton per average acre. The by-product of two bales of cotton is 600 pounds of cottonseed. Cottonseed is a perfectly good food and forage crop. Properly attended to, marketed and fed upon the farm, it would be worth nearly as much to the South as the average crop of wheat is worth to North Dakota.

Four crops of vegetables can be grown yearly as far north as Eastern North Carolina—and prize vegetables they are. Nowhere else can the bees gather more honey than in the Southern Piedmont. South Carolina alone has 5,000 square miles of reclaimable swamp lands. Extraordinarily fertile, this area can be made arable for a small fraction of its ultimate value. The nation, as a whole, does not foresee, in the smallest degree, the future agricultural possibilities of the South. The outsider, like the Southern farmer himself, usually sees the South only as it is.

Any real understanding of the situation must view the cotton problem both in the light of its dramatic past and of the present crucial changes which herald the new South. The present and future changes in Southern agriculture are to be decisive, not only in the life of the South, but to a large degree, in the fate of our country as a whole.

Cotton was one of the most potent forces in American history during the nineteenth century. It has been for a century our chief export commodity. The rise of cotton to such power among us was an aspect of the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century. The invention of the cotton gin, in 1793, ranks in importance with the Declaration of Independence. In that year our production of cotton was almost negligible. One generation of the cotton gin gave us a crop of 2,000,000 bales. Two generations passed, and the crop, in 1860, was 5,000,000 bales. In 1793 a young and healthy black man was worth about $200. Two generations later his grandson, being his equal in health and industry, was worth $2,000.

The cotton gin has been of outstanding influence in our history. Had there been no cotton gin there might have been no Lincoln and no Lee in our history. Cotton came to play a dominant rôle in Congress and the Supreme Court. The friends of cotton elected Buchanan. The enemies of cotton elected Lincoln. Cotton nourished the Civil War and conspired with fate to leave the South an ash heap and a graveyard. Its aftermath today is the "solid South." The foundation of nineteenth century American history was composed of cotton bales. That is why the building rocked and tottered. Today it blocks the way to Southern agricultural progress.



The Boll Weevil at Work.

The future unity of our American nation also concerns cotton as a social and political force. The outstanding fact today is this—cotton, the curse of cotton, the blight of the single-crop habit, is driving the Southern independent farmer east of the Mississippi from the soil. There are 600,000 Southern emigrants in the Middle West alone. The small farm cottage, like the fine old mansion of ante-bellum days, is being taken over as a home by the buzzards and the crows. These simple folk are moving by long caravans into the industrial cities and towns. Goldsmith's "deserted village" can be written large in thousands of Southern rural communities. The rapid development of Southern industrialism is evident, but that industrialism may prove a snare and a delusion unless it is solidly established upon a sturdy and life-giving agriculture.

This tragedy is as old as civilization. Ferrero, with his finger upon the economic pulse, has told us what the decay of agriculture did to ancient Rome. Observers today see a degeneracy of agriculture in Britain eating at the core of the British Empire.

In its present state of disorganization cotton production in the South appears in the form of perennial tidal waves. Each receding tide of prices, due to overproduction, carries the independent farmers off the land. Each incoming wave bears back to the land the more efficient management of highly organized capital. With the small farmer unorganized and unable to control planting and prices, the future of Southern cotton production tends to be given over more and more to the large producers.

Before the day of the boll weevil the old wasteful, slipshod, renting system could live on into the new time of scientific agriculture. In those days cotton was a fool-proof crop. Given a mule and an indestructible Georgia plow, any ragged, barefooted, 12-year-old negro boy could plow cotton. At present, through wet years of fighting the weevils, and dry years of big crops, the entire business of producing cotton successfully has changed. Capital is required and brain power in the use of capital. There must be organization, cooperation and trained leadership.

The handwriting is on the wall among the poor of the South. They have succeeded in constructing one of the best marketing cooperatives in American agriculture. They sell their product en masse for the highest market prices. Their new homes and new schoolhouses, good roads and social centres are a fair example of what a regenerated rural America might be everywhere.

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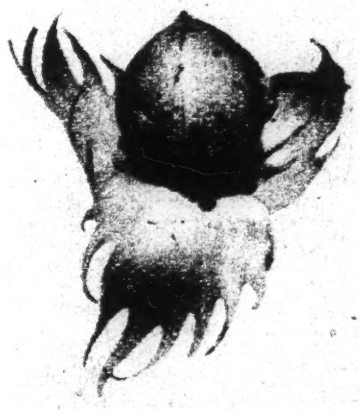

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Agriculture - 1926

Georgia.

Condition of

Waycross, Ga. Journal

JAN 25 1926

NEGROES PLEDGE AID TO DROUGHT VICTIMS

One Hundred Bushels Of Corn Will Be Sent To North Georgia Area.

Negro farmers of Ware county have pledged one hundred bushels of corn to be sent to the drought-stricken area of North Georgia. The shipment will be made on Feb. 1, it is announced.

County Agent Hinesman announces that the corn will be sent to Heard county.

LAGRANGE

JAN 27 1926

WARE NEGROES DONATE CORN

WAYCROSS, Ga., Jan. 26.—Ware County negro farmers have pledged one hundred bushels of corn to be sent to the drought-stricken area of North Georgia. County Agent Hinesman states that the shipment will be made on Feb. 1, and will go to Heard County.

ALBANY GA HERALD

NOV 1 1926

A COLORED FARMER FINDS THE WAY.

A farmer in this section of Georgia can get along very well without planting a stalk of cotton. And it is a well known fact that many farmers are in the "no-cotton" class.

Not by any means do we advocate the abandonment of cotton as one of the important money crops of this section. As a matter of fact, the continued planting of cotton is of very great importance. It is as important an item in a balanced-farming program as any of the other things we grow in South Georgia.

But the possibilities of getting along without cotton have been repeatedly and strikingly demonstrated.

There is the case of a colored farmer whose place is about six miles north of Albany, in Lee County. His principal money crop this year was peanuts. The soil on the place he rented was suitable for that crop, and it did well. He made eight tons of number one Spanish peanuts, which are now bringing $105 per ton.

Eight hundred and forty dollars isn't bad for the principal money crop on a one-horse farm. The colored farmer has paid his rent and his other obligations, has money ahead for next cyar, and doesn't know whether he will plant any cotton in 1927 or not.

The strength of agricultural South Georgia, as we have stated repeatedly, is in the large number and great variety of the money crops it is possible to produce here.

THE CORRECT PROGRAM.

H. G. Hastings, prominent Atlanta business man, in accepting the presidency of the Georgia association at the annual meeting of its members held recently in Atlanta, urged sharp reductions in cotton acreage, increased production per acre and a balanced program of farm operations.

Constitution

In all of them he is entirely correct. More cotton to the acre, and less acres to cotton, thereby automatically releasing surplus acres to feed and food production, and to other-than-cotton money crops, is so fundamentally sound that no one can challenge.

12-14-26

We have been persistently and consistently preaching that doctrine for years, and it is gratifying that Georgia has made more progress in properly balancing agriculture than any other state.

Atlanta Ga.

The economic fact has been indisputably proven that an average yield of 300 pounds of lint to the acre, taking the state as a whole, can be produced for little more than half the cost of the present yield, average of around 180 pounds to the acre. Even the latter is a marked increase over the average of three or four years ago, or over the average even before the invasion of the weevil.

If we had, by intensive cultivation this year, brought the production average up to 300 pounds—as it is in many foreign cotton-growing countries—we could market the present crop at a satisfactory profit even at the prevailing low spot prices.

We cannot refrain, when talking of acreage reduction, from again emphasizing the notable record that Georgia has made in this matter. Her 1926 cultivated acreage was approximately 1,500,000 acres less than the acreage of a few years ago, and before the reduction campaign began. And yet in every other state in the cotton belt, with the exception of negligible decreases in South Carolina and Florida, the increases averaged from 25 to 50 per cent. We cannot attack the Georgia farmers for not heeding the call. They did so to such a commendable extent that the state is more prosperous today than most of the cotton-growing states. The farmers, as a rule, have full barns and smokehouse. Such a condition only guarantees independence.

We again vigorously urge the program that Mr. Hastings urges, despite the good reduction record Georgia farmers have heretofore made. Less acres to cotton, provided the cultivation is intensified, and thus more cotton to the acre, is the one outstanding course of agricultural wisdom.

In such event we must to the same extent increase all acreages applied to those commodities that enter into "living at home"—and into feeding our stock at home, with the pastures dotted with hogs and cows, and the yards with poultry.

We commend the Georgia association for the election of this well-known farm expert and business man to its presidency.

General.

Agriculture-1926
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"The Vanishing American Farmer: First Went the Indian—Now Goes the Farmer."

By B. F. Yoakum.

The American farmer, because of circumstances over which he has no control, is fading from the present-day picture of free, independent Americanism.

That sacred clause written into the Declaration of Independence, that all men are born of equal rights to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is not now applicable to the condition in which the American farmers find themselves.

Manufacturers Record

From the inception of this Government down to a few years ago the American farmer was unique among the agrarian elements of the world. He was a citizen to whom the best minds of the country always turned with confidence whenever danger of any kind menaced our democratic institutions or war threatened the safety of our country. At the present crisis the American farmer is hopelessly involved in debt. He owes twelve and one-half billion dollars, an amount equal to the funded debt of all of our great railroad systems, and paying an average rate of 8 per cent per annum, including all costs to the farmer in obtaining his scanty loans, according to information furnished me by former Secretary Henry C. Wallace.

4-1-26

Baltimore, Md.

The American farmers must be permitted under an enabling law to relieve themselves of this enormous and crushing debt or the whole country will acutely feel its effect when the farmers are further driven into bankruptcy, with a corresponding further dispossession of their homes. Official statistics show that nearly two million farmers have lost their homes since the census of 1920. This means two million less home-loving and loyal American families. It means two million more homeless farmers who are forced to seek work in our already overcrowded cities. Densely populated centers were the birthplaces of Russia's socialistic government. The germ of socialism is spreading in our overcrowded centers and is being used as a tool of the politicians who, to gain political and economic power, are willing to forsake the century-and-a-half-old principles of democracy that have so safely and sanely guided our footsteps. This, considered in connection with the diminishing financial and social strength of agriculture, calls for cool and deliberate thought of every true American citizen.

The public does not realize to what extent farmers are losing their homes. Public records of farm-mortgage foreclosures are misleading. The facts are that many thousands of farmers are peacefully surrendering their farms, their homes and their all. They have thrown up their hands after a hard, losing fight to hold on, hoping that in some way they would be able to save themselves from a total loss. If the fundamental difficulties of their problem had been understood, and given the consideration due by our law-making body, this enormous debt would not have piled up on the farmers until it crushed them. Our national lawmakers have neglected to find a way that the farmers may become independent of mortgage holders and creditors. This they could have done by providing a way that farming can be made profitable as is every other class of business. H. C. Keeney, president of the Farmers' Union of Nebraska, states it forcibly in describing the plight of the farmer when he says that "thousands of farmers who for years have fought a losing fight, until their last chance to pay their debts passed beyond their grasp, are peacefully surrendering."

In every community, and in every instance where farmers have been compelled to submit to mortgage foreclosure or "peaceful surrender" of their homes, a danger spot to the Republic has been created, leaving them disappointed and disheartened, and such a catastrophe puts terrific strain upon their traditional conservatism and patriotism.

Americans belong to the higher breed; they are not of the peasant breed, and yet that is what our false economic policy in respect to the farmer will lead to inevitably unless he is speedily given a fair and equal chance with others more fortunate in the accumulation of money. Men and women of the farm who lose their homes cannot remain as tenants on soil that was once theirs and continue with the same feeling of loyalty and devotion to their country they had before. They cannot be expected to perform the same useful part as citizens after they are forced to hire out at labor in industrial work or on the farms they once owned. Americans who believe in their country and the principle upon which it was founded must face the facts as they exist, not as some want them to exist.

Final analysis will show that our agriculture is rapidly yielding to that invisible force which proceeds from all capitalization when unhindered by careless legislation.

The farming industry is gradually making its way toward *ownership* by the *wealthy class* and *tenantry* by the *farmer*.

The country need not be alarmed by the feeling that the change in ownership and method of supervising the production of food requirements will involve the danger of an insufficient national food supply. We shall always produce enough food for our domestic requirements. Instead, however, of the American farmers and their families continuing as owners and operators of their farms, American farming is drifting toward being "corporationized," and the farmer is vanishing as history and tradition have known him. They will become the hired labor of the "corporationized" and "wealthy" operated farm. Wealthy town people are rapidly becoming owners of the farms. It is they who will control their operations, with the farmers as their laborers or their tenants. Tenantry is only one step removed from peasantry.

Farmers and their families, as they are forced into poverty and bankruptcy, cannot be expected to constitute the same conservative force in our citizenship who have been loyal under the old economic regime of democracy. They will not, however, be disfranchised; they will continue to vote. There is grave ground to fear that they may be forced to become the radical element in the nation's citizenship. As they are foreclosed under mortgage or "peacefully surrender" their homes, they go out as nomads, seeking new abiding places.

Men and women who now are indifferent toward the farmer's plight, and who seem to welcome the prospect of the American farm industry being "corporationized," may look to the agrarian population, numbering over thirty-one million people, as an element with a justifiable grievance and with discontent rankling in their hearts.

Leaders of farm legislation in Congress should be watchful lest this greatest of all problems gets beyond the remedial point by any law Congress can enact.

Leaders of organized farm forces may find that when this greatest of all industries becomes "corporationized" and operated by town people a new agricultural America may come forth and startle the world with its new ways and strange character.

The diminishing number of farmers who now own their farms, as they are forced to give up their ownership, may become a weakening factor in the structure of the great farm organization to whom they look for guidance and protection.

NEGRO FARMER TOO EASILY SATISFIED

National Negro Press

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Board of Vocational Education recently issued a bulletin on the subject of vocational education in agriculture for Negroes. The data used was secured from the several state supervisors and teacher trainers for Negroes in the Southern States and the study was made for the purpose of formulating a program of vocational education in agriculture designed to meet the special needs of Negroes and to assist those in charge of such education to put the program into effect.

Concerning the general standard of living of the Negro farmers in the South the bulletin says: "As a rule the Negro farmer's standard of living is low. He is too easily satisfied with his present condition, poor though they may be. A shelter which keeps out the rain and cold is all he cares for or expects as a house, although it may have no proper means of ventilation or screen to keep out mosquitoes and flies. If he gets plenty of pork and corn bread, he feels that he has sufficient and proper food for himself and family, regardless of their real needs for the conclusion of vegetables and milk in their diet. In practically all cases he could provide himself with improved living facilities at a little cost other than his own labor."

In this connection it appears that a National Rural League that could duplicate the splendid work being done by the National Urban League would have an apportunity for constructive service among those of our people who live in rural communities where such conditions obtain.

"FARMERS SHOULD ORGANIZE" SAYS AGRITURE SECRETARY

The nearly one million Negro farmers in the United States, 24 per cent of whom are owners, working 13,948,512 acres of fertile land having, together with buildings thereon a value of more than half a billion dollars, should mark well the advice recently given by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, who said that "it is impossible to have too much sound organization among farmers."

The Secretary further said: "I am so strong a believer in organization that I am convinced that legislative relief for agriculture must, in proportion as it is to be effective, utilize farm organizations. I consider agriculture to be of such farreaching importance as to justify the most careful study and effort on the part of the Government to assist in solving its problems.

JAN 5 - 1926

REMEDIES FOR THE "TIME PRICES" CREDIT EVIL.

Clarence Poe in Progressive Farmer.

Coming now to a consideration of the remedies for the serious evil, we have here described, let us say:—

1. Every State should have a law making it illegal to make a time price charge of more than 10 per cent. in excess of the cash charge, and requiring a memorandum of every time price charge to be given the purchaser at the time of the purchase.

2. The coming of the boll weevil has made the time prices credit system more risky than ever before, and the system is losing much ground for that reason.

3. County banks are springing up everywhere and men of character and industry can borrow money from them. Eventually only the men who lack character and industry should be left to depend on the time prices system.

4. The ignorance and helplessness of the Negroes has been the main support of the crop-lien, time-prices system. They haven't realized yet what sort of interest rates they were paying as "time prices" and they have lacked a knowledge of where to go in order to better themselves. But now (a) the education of the Negroes is making them more intelligent and discriminating and (b) the new laws curtailing European immigration have made a demand for Negro labor that will eventually draw to the North at profitable wages thousands of Negro tenant farmers who have heretofore eked out a bare cabin-and-cornbread living as crop-mortgage serfs.

And with the gradual disappearance of crop-lien slavery will come both better prices and better community life for the real farmers of the South and our lands will come more and more under the care and culture of men who farm because they love to farm and not merely because they know no other way to make a living.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald

SEP 27 1926

THE NEGRO AND LANDLESSNESS

To the Editor of The Age-Herald:

As the writer has been more than interested in the article, "Landlessness and Crime," and the "Forum of the People," by one Prof. Sam Morgan, teacher of vocational agriculture in the Honoraville High School, and if such as I have to say in this article is available I would be very grateful if you would give space to the same.

Dr. E. C. Branson, the teacher of rural sociology, has only said what the writer has preached and taught for more than eighteen years throughout the state of Alabama, in church and lodge room, until a few years ago the Negro Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias organized the state into 23 districts and created what is known today as district welfare educational meets. In these district meetings the negro is being taught these all important racial truths: His civilization begins in the home-owning instinct. That negro civilization begins, then, as all other civilizations have begun, not in politics, but in the home-owning, home-loving, home-defending instinct, in the pride, the industry, the thrift, and the sense of law and order that are peculiarly bred in any race or people by land ownership. They are being taught, how difficult it is to civilize a landless, homeless people; sojourners, pilgrims, and strangers in the land, foot-loose and free to wander at sweet will and pleasure; without abiding interest in the school and churches of the community, in law and order, peace and progress of the race.

As the leader of these meetings said a few weeks ago talking to a great mass of our people in a certain community in Marengo county: "It is the landless, homeless condition of the people of Mexico that makes Mexican civilization such a puzzling, baffling problem. The state despairs of civic stability for them, and the church well-nigh despairs of salvation for them. Peonage, both economic and spiritual, is their inevitable lot until they have a stake in the land. In the nature of things freedom arises out of land ownership. The land is the man, said the early Saxons: "No land, no man."

There is little hope in any country for vagrant tenants, let them be black or white. We have been informed that there are little more than a hundred thousand negro farmers of Alabama who are tenants. More than 50 per cent of these foot-loose men and women take up their bed and walk every year into new fields and pastures. They drift into the lumber camps, into and out of the railway gangs, into the slum quarters of the cities, and finally into crime and debauchery. The real stable civilization of the race lies not within the realms of politics, but within the realms of home and farm owners, because they are tethered by property ownership. They are steadied by self-denial, industry, thrift, and a sense of personal worth; and by the same cords they are bound to law and order. They develop the qualities and virtues of citizenship. They think twice before yielding to criminal impulse. In home and farm ownership they give hostages to society. Nothing but these three elements will solve the negro problem North or South, land ownership, industrial education, and the religion of Jesus Christ; these will sharpen his wits, clarify his vision, and support his conscience. Lift him to that standard, he will then become an efficient moral and social police against the idle and vicious of the race. These fundamentals widespread among the race as these Pythian district meetings are doing throughout Alabama will cure vagrancy and build an industrious land ownership which no legislation can ever do. Everywhere, among all people, patriotism is rooted in the soil and is nourished by it, and with the wholehearted co-operation of the leading Anglo-Saxons of Alabama this well begun work will take on new life, and untold good will be accomplished. Finally, let me say, Black skins: White characters. For out of property ownership comes a certain sense of personal worth and dignity, and sure realization of the force and driving power of character. By that force of character, and by vitrue of home and land and other property ownership the race in the South will come to be civilizable, Christianizable men and women of worth. Without it our religion will altogether be nothing more than emotional, unrelated, unapplied frenzy. With it we will stand a fair chance to bridge the gulf between creed and conduct, emotion and action. And through these welfare educational district meetings we are gaining in industry, honesty, law-abidingness and comfort, yes, we are going on to the extent that we are gaining in home and farm ownership, and we need your moral co-operation that we might in the near future measure up to the expected standard, and build for ourselves a race free of crime as we are free of traitors or anarchists to this our government.

P. COLEAX RAMEAU,
Editor and Welfare Social Work.
Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 17, 1926.

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Maryland.

But One Lone Farmer Among Hi School Seniors

Vocational Guidance Department Lists 70 Of 157 Students As Teachers

Interviews with 157 seniors disclosed the fact that seventy of them have chosen teaching as a life work, according to information secured this week from Vocational Director, W. D. Johnson, at the Douglass High School.

Medicine Second

Medicine ranked second, being the choice of twenty pupils. Other occupations were listed in the following order: nursing, ten; business, eight; clerical work, eight; pharmacy, six; athletic directing, six; music, six; ministry, three; farming, one. Fifteen pupils were still undecided.

It is to be remembered that the selections made by these pupils have been made largely upon their own initiative with no special training and guidance in the choice of a life work.

Vocational Guidance New

Vocational guidance is a new feature recently added to the work of the Junior and Senior High schools. It is a "systematic effort, based on knowledge of the occupations and on acquaintance with and study of the individaul. to inform, or cooperate with him in choosing, preparing for, entering upon, or making progress in his occupation." It will be interesting to compare the selections of future senior classes, having had a complete course of training along this line, with those of the present class.

Scheme of Work

Mrs. Vivian Cook sketeched interestingly the scheme of this work in the Junior High Schools over which she is Vocational Director. Here boys and girls are definitely and systematically introduced to the broad field of occupation, industrial and commercial, and professional. A number of occupations are studied from various viewpoints, such as importance of world-life, qualifications and training necessary, effects upon workers, and probable financial returns.

The study of qualifications necessary to success in each occupation is a most important phase of the work. Here the pupil's eyes are turned inward, upon himself. He is trained to self analysis, to rate himself for favorable and unfavorable qualities. He then uses this self-knowledge as a basis for intelligent choice of that line of work in which he has most chances of success. All this is done under wise, sympathetic, character-building supervision and direction.

Since "for the great mass of men life is organized around work," it would necessarily follow that vocational guidance is of unquestioned importance in the education of the child. The coolred people of Baltimore should get much satisfaction out of the knowledge that such training is now open to their children.

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North Carolina

FARM TENANCY IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1925
Percent Increase or Decrease, 1920-1925

In the table below the counties of the state are ranked from low to high according to the percent of farms operated by tenants in 1925. The second column shows the percent tenant ratio increase or decrease from 1920 to 1925. To illustrate: In Edgecombe county 83.3 percent of all farms were operated by tenants in 1925, and 79.4 percent in 1920. The tenant ratio increased 3.9 percent during the five-year period.

In 1925 farms operated by tenants represent 46.5 percent of all farms. The rate in 1920 was 43.5 percent. In 44 counties the tenant rate decreased, while it increased in 55 counties, mainly cotton and tobacco counties. One county showed no change.

During the last five years the number of farms in the state increased 13,729, while the number of farms operated by tenants increased 14,408. This is the largest increase in the history of the state, except from 1890 to 1900.

Based on press summaries of the U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1925.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.
Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

THE LANDLESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

In the current issue of the University News Letter, Prof. E. C. Branson writes:

"North Carolina has twenty-two million idle wilderness acres, a hundred thousand vacant town and city lots, and a million three hundred and eighty thousand landless, homeless people, town and country. Almost exactly one-third of our white farmers and two-thirds of our negro farmers own no land. The people who live in rented dwellings in our towns and cities are from two-thirds to three-fourths of the various municipal populations.

"These are the people in North Carolina who own not an inch of the soil they cultivate nor a single shingle in the roofs over their heads. They are fifty-two per cent or more than half the entire population of the state.

"Enduring social structures cannot be built on land-ownership by the few and land-orphanage for the many. Civilization is rooted and grounded in the home-owning, home-loving, home-defending instincts."

An unsigned article in the same issue discusses same condition at greater length, opening with the following:

"North Carolina is probably headed into farm tenantry more rapidly than any other state in the union. Such is the conclusion one must draw from a close study of the 1925 farm census data which have recently been released. In 1920 there were 117,459 farms operated by tenants in North Carolina. In 1925 there were 131,867, or a five-year increase of 14,408 tenant farms. The five-year increase in all farms was 13,729, which means that the increase in the number of farms operated by tenants was larger than the net gain in all farms. Only two states in the union experienced larger increases in farms during the last nve years, and probably no state had anywhere like as large an increase in farms operated by tenants.

"In 1920 the farms operated by tenants were 43.5 per cent of all farms in the state. The farm tenant ratio in 1925 was 46.5 per cent, a ratio increase of 3 per cent in just five years. This is a significant gain considering the enormous number of farms in the state."

A syndicated article dealing with a great estate in Western North Carolina refers to the feudal conditions existing on it and mentioned as part of the "color" the presence of the great body of "peasantry." Undoubtedly there is a danger of the development of a "peasantry" in this state of the landless horde and the best guarantee against an objectionable caste system is home ownership. Perhaps the greatest bar to such ownership is the small profit that agriculture provides in this state. Cooperative marketing an dadvanced farming methods must help the state.

BARE DARING USURY SCHEME IN N. C. TOWN

Southern Loan Sharks Reap Harvest

The authorities of Winston-Salem are making a thorough investigation of a situation that was brought to the attention of the board of aldermen a few nights ago when it was stated that probably more than $100,000 annually is being collected in the way of interest from members of the Race here by means of "bills of sale." The charge is called "rent" instead of interest. Amounts called for on the notices sent out call for "rent" on a loan from $2.50 per month to $3.20. Probably half of the concerns operating charge the higher rate.

Investigation is said to show that members of the Race have been paying monthly in some instances for several years at the rate of $3.20 per month on loans of $10. The loan sharks still demand the principal, with threats of seizing household and kitchen furniture.

GET COURT JUDGMENTS

It was further found that since Jan. 1, 1925, more than seventy-five cases have been brought in magistrate's courts and judgment secured for the possession of household and kitchen furniture upon contracts that claimed to be bills of sale for furniture.

The prevailing scheme is said to be to have the borrower execute a bill of sale of all of the household and kitchen furniture owned. No "rent" is collected or deducted then; that starts at the end of 30 days. In some instances when the loan is made the borrower is required to execute a hybrid instrument as an application to secure a loan and also to rent the furniture back.

"RENT" FURNITURE AT HIGH RATE

Even if this instrument is not executed, the borrower is informed that the furniture can be rented back at the high rate. One a loan of $5 in most instances the charge is $1.60 per month. It is said that none of the concerns doing business have been operating under a city license requiring money lenders to pay a license tax of $100 annually. Notices have been sent out to a number of the alleged money lenders during the past few days by the city tax collector.

The city prosecutor takes the position that the use of the word "rent" is only a subterfuge and that the so-called bill of sale is nothing but a mortgage and that it is a violation of the state law under the special statute making it a misdemeanor to charge a higher rate of interest on household and kitchen furniture than 6 per cent and also making it a misdemeanor not to surrender the original paper when the account is paid in full.

FARM TENANCY IN THE U. S

The table which appears elsewhere shows how the states rank in percent of all farms operated by tenants for the year 1925, while the parallel column gives the tenant rate for 1920. The difference is the ratio increase or decrease in tenant farmers.

Volume XII number 14 of this publication presented a study of farm tenancy in North Carolina by counties in 1925 and 1920, along with a more or less detailed interpretation of the state table.

Summary Facts

The following appear to be the outstanding facts with regard to farm tenancy in the United States.

While there was a decrease in the number of farms in the United States between 1920 and 1925, there was an increase in the number of farms operated by tenants. The net increase in the farm tenant ratio was from 38.1 percent in 1920 to 38.6 percent in 1925.

Exactly one-half of the states increased their farm tenant rates during the last five years, while in the other twenty-four states the farm tenant rate decreased.

A point that it is well to keep in mind is that the farm tenant situation is far more serious than statistics on farms operated by tenants indicate. If a former tenant has purchased a farm, and has made only a small first payment, he is classed as an owner. If a farmer owns a very small piece of land and rents additional land he is classed as an owner.

A large percent of farmers classed as owners are virtually tenants, and a tenth of the cultivated area of the United States is land rented by farmers classed as owners. That is, they are renting additional land. The percent of land area cultivated as leased land is larger than the percent of farms operated by tenants.

In the South

Nearly two-thirds of all farm tenants in the United States, sixty-five percent to be exact, are in the sixteen Southern states. Only one-third of the nation's farm tenants are located in the other thirty-two states.

More than half of all farms in the 16 Southern states, 51.1 percent to be exact, are operated by tenants. In the ten cotton-belt states 57.8 percent of all farms are operated by tenants. Every cotton-belt state except Georgia increased its tenant rate during the last five-year period. The exodus of farm tenants from Georgia following the boll-weevil disaster, and not increase in farm ownership, explains Georgia's decreased tenant rate. Georgia lost approximately sixty thousand farms, 1920-1925, about forty-eight thousand of which were tenant farms.

In the South farm tenancy seems to thrive equally as well on prosperity as on depression. Fat years seem to hatch tenants as effectively as lean years. During the fairly prosperous decade from 1910 to 1920 the farm tenant rate increased in the South. Since 1920 there has been a general depressson in agriculture and many farmers who had made a payment or two and were classed as owners in 1920 have lost out and reverted to the status of tenant. And in addition thousands of straight-out owners have lost their farms since 1920, due to the general depression. Depression is not conducive to land purchase, so the new farm population likely prefers to farm as tenants.

The greatest single economic and social problem in the South is the problem of farm tenancy, and it is not a negro problem as is so often thought, but a white problem, for two-thirds of all farm tenants in the South are whites, and only one third are negroes. It was not a white problem after the Civil War, but it is a white problem today, and it is increasingly a white problem. And what is true for the South is equally true for North Carolina.

There is no hope for an efficient and generally prosperous agriculture, nor for a satisfying and wholesome rural life, that is not rooted and grounded in home and farm ownership.—S. H. H., Jr.

HOME OWNERSHIP

There is no government for the many while the land belongs to the few; for the history of the world teaches that the men who own the land will rule it.

The home-owner is the most constructive and at the same time the most important force in our civilization. He is a pioneer in progress, he is a lover of peace, but he is a very demon in the battle when danger threatens the land he loves.

The small farm owned by the man who tills it is the best plant-bed in the world in which to grow a patriot. Such a consideration brings wealth to the souls of men. On such a soil it is possible to produce anything, from two pecks of potatoes to the hill to a President of the United States.

The wizard of the Northwest, James J. Hill, once said: Land without population is a wilderness, population without land is a mob.

Every consideration of progress and safety urges us to employ all wise and just measures to get our lands into the hands of the many and forestall that most destructive of all monopolies—the monopoly of the soil.—Thomas W. Bickett.

OUR LANDLESS MULTITUDES

North Carolina has twenty-two million idle wilderness acres, a hundred thousand vacant town and city lots, and a million three hundred eighty thousand landless, homeless people, town and country. Almost exactly one-third of our white farmers and two-thirds of our negro farmers own no land. The people who live in rented dwellings in our towns and cities are from two-thirds to three-fourths of the various municipal populations.

These are the people in North Carolina who own not an inch of the soil they cultivate nor a single shingle in the roofs over their heads. They are fifty-two percent or more than half the entire population of the state.

Enduring social structures cannot be be built on landownership by the few and land-orphanage for the many. Civilization is rooted and grounded in the home-owning, home-loving, home-defending instincts.—E. C. Branson.

FARM TENANCY IN THE UNITED STATES

Percent of Farms Operated by Tenants 1925 and 1920

In the table below, based on the Federal Farm Census of 1925, the states are ranked according to the percent of all farms operated by tenants in 1925. The second column gives the percent of all farms operated by tenants in 1920, to show increases and decreases.

Maine, with only 3.4 percent of her farms operated by tenants, has the lowest farm-tenant rate in the United States. Mississippi with a farm tenancy rate of 68.3 percent leads the states in tenancy.

North Carolina ranks 39th with 45.2 percent of all farms operated by tenants in 1925, against 43.5 percent in 1920. During the five-year period 1920-25 North Carolina's net increase in the number of farms operated by tenants was surpassed by only two states, Texas and Oklahoma.

(Note: For a discussion of farm tenancy in North Carolina in 1925 see News Letter, Vol. XII, No. 14.)

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.
Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	States	Percent tenants 1925	Percent tenants 1920
1	Maine	3.4	4.2
2	New Hampshire	4.8	6.7
2	Massachusetts	4.8	7.1
4	Connecticut	6.4	8.5
5	Nevada	7.8	9.4
6	Vermont	9.3	11.6
7	Utah	12.1	10.9
8	Rhode Island	12.1	15.5
9	New York	14.1	19.2
10	California	14.7	21.4
11	Michigan	15.1	17.7
12	Wisconsin	15.5	14.4
13	New Jersey	15.9	23.0
14	Washington	16.3	18.7
14	West Virginia	16.3	16.2
16	Oregon	16.8	18.8
17	New Mexico	17.1	12.2
18	Pennsylvania	17.4	21.9
19	Wyoming	17.9	12.5
20	Florida	21.3	25.3
21	Arizona	21.6	18.1
22	Montana	21.9	11.3
23	Idaho	24.4	15.9
24	Virginia	25.2	25.6
25	Ohio	25.5	29.5
26	Maryland	26.4	28.9
27	Minnesota	27.1	24.7
28	Indiana	29.2	32.0
29	Colorado	30.9	23.0
30	Kentucky	32.0	33.4
31	Missouri	32.6	28.8
32	North Dakota	34.4	25.6
33	Delaware	35.8	39.3
34	Tennessee	41.0	41.1
35	South Dakota	41.5	34.9
36	Illinois	42.0	42.7
37	Kansas	42.2	40.4
38	Iowa	44.7	41.7
39	North Carolina	45.2	43.5
40	Nebraska	46.4	42.9
41	Arkansas	56.7	51.3
42	Oklahoma	58.6	51.0
43	Louisiana	60.1	57.1
44	Texas	60.4	53.3
45	Alabama	60.7	57.9
46	Georgia	63.8	66.1
47	South Carolina	65.1	64.5
48	Mississippi	68.3	66.1

FARM TENANCY BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

Geographic division	Percent tenants 1925	Percent tenants 1920
New England	5.6	7.4
Pacific	15.6	20.1
Middle Atlantic	15.8	20.7
Rocky Mountain	22.2	15.4
E. N. Central	26.0	28.1
W. N. Central	37.8	34.2
South Atlantic	44.5	46.8
E. S. Central	50.3	49.7
W. S. Central	59.2	52.9

Agriculture - 1926
Conditions of ...
S.C.

South Carolina

Lancaster SC

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WHY HE HAD ONLY WHITE TENANTS.

"Yes, that's a farm that Ihave none but white tenants on. You see, this farm is in a white neighborhood with white farmers all around it, so I don't think it quite fair to sandwich a lot of Negroes in among them."

Such was the remark we overheard on a tram a few mornings ago. It is a great pity that other absentee landowners are not equally thoughtful and equally just in dealing with white farm neighborhoods. The rural sections of the South are thinly settled at best. Even in communities where all the residents are white, it is hard enough to support an adequate white social life and provide proper patronage and support for white schools and churches. In any neighborhood where half the population is of another race, this situation becomes all the more difficult.

We ought to develop a robust public opinion which would compel absentee landowners to do as the one we overheard was willingly doing—respecting the social and community life of the people living around his farm. Of course it should be said that it is equally unfair to Negro communities to put white tenants on a farm surrounded by Negro farmers, but as a matter of practice, this is not likely to happen. And since ecah race must have its own churches, schools, and social life, a vigorous public opinion should encourage the development of one-race neighborhoods as far and as fast as possible. —Progressive Farmer.

NEWS

Good Colored Farmer

William Twitty, colored farmer living about two miles east of Pleasant Hill, is an example to his race as to just what can be done by hard work and industry. William was in Lancaster Thursday, and among other matters of business paid his subscription to The News. He brought along about four bushels of pecans that had blown from his four large trees the day before and found ready sale for them at twenty cents per pound. William bought a tract of land a few years ago and finished paying for it last year. This year he will make some money notwithstanding the low price of cotton, and will have plenty hog and hominy to live on another year. He is hard-working and saving, and is well thought of by white and colored.

DEC 2 1926

South Carolin's Negro Farmers

(University Weekly News)

If the negro migration during the period of depression following World War gave South Carolina's total population a white majority for the first time since 1810, and reliable estimates indicate that it did, no such condition exists as regards the total number of farmers. The 1925 Farm Census shows that the majority of the farms of the state are still operated by negro farmers.

Specifically, of the 172,761 farms, 90,578 are operated by colored farmers as compared with 82,183 by white, or the negroes outnumber the whites by 8,395. This simply means that over one-half the units of agricultural production are cultivated by negroes, and over one-half the farm population belongs to the colored race. However, in 1920 the negro farmer majority was greater. Of the 192,693 given by the census, 109,010 were negro and 83,683 white, a negro majority of 25,327.

The per cent of the farm area, the improved lands and the farm wealth in the farms operated by negro farmers are facts not available for 1925, but the facts for 1920 suggest a condition that is not considerably less significant than that relative to farms. Thirty-five per cent of the total farm lands, 47.0 per cent of the improved land, and 36.0 per cent of the total value of land and buildings were in negro operated farms. Moreover, it is a conservative estimate that the negro farmers produce 45 per cent of the state's annual crop wealth.

These facts suggest very clearly that in South Carolina agricultural life, the negro holds a place of considerable magnitude with respect to both the number of farms and to the value of the annual crop production.

The situation is intensified in a large number of counties. (See table). The negroes constitute over one-half of all farmers in more than two-thirds of the counties in the state. In Beaufort, of the 2,616 farms in the county, only 261 are operated by white farmers; the remaining 2,355, by negroes. Thus nine in every ten farmers in Beaufort are negroes. Charleston, Fairfield, Jasper, Clarendon, and Allendale also show high ratios, with over three-fourths of their farms under negro cultivation. It is obvious that in these counties the matter of improving agricultural conditions must concern itself largely with negro farmers.

In only three counties does the negro farmer group constitute less than one-fourth the total number; Horry, 18.4 per cent; Pickens, 17.1 per cent; and Oconee, 16.3 per cent. These are the counties of relatively low negro population ratios.

In a consideration of the negro population (1920), the general tendency is noted that in a majority of the counties the negro forms a higher per cent of all farmers than he does of the total population For example, in Beaufort where 90.0 per cent of the farmers are negro, 78.4 per cent of the total population is so classed. Charleston presents an unusual case; 83.2 negro farmers and 59.2 per cent negro population. Similar conditions prevail in Fairfield, Jasper Clarendon, Bamberg, Greenwood Richland and numerous others This indicates that throughout the state farming is left in a measure to the negro.

It might be maintained that in spite of the fact that negro farmers predominate in a large number of counties, the majority of them are tenants and hence the management of the farms is under white direction. There is something in this position. But as a matter of fact, negro farmers are becoming owners at a relatively rapid rate. In 1920, there were 22,759 negro farm owners in the state, or 21.0 per cent of all negro farmers. In 1910 the number was 20,372. Thus, the gain during the ten year period was 2,387, or 11.7 per cent. The increase in the number of white owner operators during the same period was from 43,978 to 44,965 or 2.2 per cent. Thus the negro gain was five times that of the white.

The figures for 1925 are not available, but there is little reason to assume that the number of negro owners has materially decreased. The 18,432 negro farmers who left the farms during 1920-1825 were not negro owners they belonged largely to the transient cropper class.

The analysis presented above demonstrates with some force that in South Carolina negr farmers constitute a group of considerable magnitude in the state as a whole that they form a majority in more than two-thirds of the counties, and that negro owner operators have shown a tendency to increase faster than whites.

The facts are undeniable; we cannot in justice to the state evade them. Whether we wish it or no they impose a problem with which leaders must reckon. It is the problem of improving negro farmers and negro agriculture for the economic welfare of the whole community. It must be apparent even to the casual student that if the state is to follow diversified farming, cease to become a slave to the one crop, cotton, increase wealth production and wealth retention, greater attention must be given to our mass of negro farmers.

In practically every study of rural econmic and social South Carolina, we are everlastingly running across the situation that low incomes, poor schools, unfavorable health conditions, barren life prevail with high negro population ratios. In spite of opinions to the contrary, it is a demonstrable fact that the negro, in his present state, is a serious handicap to our rural progress.

The remedy for the situation may lie in a number of directions, but one thing is clear, and that is that our forces of education must be extended more forcefully to the negro. This is indicated not by any mistaken idea as to the position of the negro; it is demanded by the economic needs of the state.

Agriculture-1926

Texas.

Condition of

Exclusive Cotton Raising Suicide, Ousley Declares

Dallas, Texas, February 9.—(AP)—It is financial suicide for the south to depend upon cotton alone for subsistence and for the payment of debts, declared Clarence Ousley, of Fort Worth, chairman of the southwide movement for a more profitable agricultural program, in a statement issued here. Mr. Ousley says the best way to carry on the campaign for "better cotton on fewer acres and more feed on more acres" is for bankers and other business men and business organizations to align themselves numerically with the colleges and county agents. His statement follows in part:

"Referring to the action of the Memphis, Tenn., meeting of farmers, State commissioners of agriculture and business men asking me to serve as chairman or commissioner of a southwide movement for a more profitable agricultural program, my associates in the Texas safe farming association agree that I should accept the call and do all within my power to concentrate the leading interests of the south in an earnest effort for betterment. While in Atlanta last week, I arranged for the active work of all the agricultural colleges of the south and I today am addressing letters to the bankers' association of each cotton state, urging immediately contact and cooperation with their agricultural colleges and county agents.

"The keynote of our Texas campaign is better cotton on fewer acreage and more feed on more acres. That concisely states our idea of a farming program for 1926 which will insure the production of sufficient food and feed to maintain the farm family and farm establishment, so that the money we receive for cotton will not be absorbed in the purchase of supplies.

"I call attention to the fact that for several weeks past the cotton mills of the world have been buying cotton in smaller volume than for the corresponding weeks last year. The takings for the week ending last Friday were 289,000 bales of American cotton compared with 351,000 bales for the same week a year ago. Experts likewise have been declining.

"This is conclusive evidence that manufacturers are in no haste to buy the cotton we now have and they will not buy eagerly until there is evidence that the next year's supply will be considerably less than last year's production, because at the present rate of consumption there is more than enough cotton to supply the mills and to leave a comfortable surplus at the end of the cotton year."

Even with a considerable reduction in acreage in 1926 there is no assurance that we may not have as large gross production. If Texas had had at this time last year as much cotton in the ground as we now have, the state would have produced at least a million bales more.

"Experience for the last two years shows that while the boll weevil is by no means eradicated or permanently reduced in numbers or dangers, still, with modern methods of cultivation, with the improved varieties and with te[illegible] processes of poisoning, the boll weevil has been brought definitely under control.

"For these reasons, it is financial suicide for the south to depend upon cotton alone for subsistence and for the payment of debts. It is imperative that we raise our own food and feed."

OUSLEY SAYS SOUTH IS SLAVE TO COTTON

Gainesville, Texas, February 25.—For more than 60 years the south has been shackled to cotton as truly as the black man was slave to the white—shackled to habit. This thought was reared as the keystone of the safe farming movement here tonight in a speech by Colonel Clarence Ousley, director of the newly organized Texas Safe Farming association, in launching the campaign of the association "for more cotton on fewer acres, and more feed on more acres."

"Against this handicap to habit, against this delusion, against this despair," Colonel Ousley said, "one hundred of the foremost bankers, merchants and manufacturers of Texas, inspired by Nathan Adams, banker of Dallas, and headed by J. A. Kemp, Wichita Falls, organized a revolt in January. These men have set up the Texas Safe Farming association and committed it to a five-year campaign of education in safe farming, safer banking, safer business. The first objective is to arouse bankers to a sense of their responsibility and opportunity to persuade farmers to plant a sufficient acreage in food and feed crops to supply their families and establishments."

Alarming Growth of Tenancy

With all of its splendid progress in many realms of endeavor, the South does not rid itself of its unenviable distinction of having a larger percentage of tenant farmers than has any other section of the country. And the discouraging thing about it is that the situation gets worse, instead of better, from year to year

In a table of statistics compiled from the records of the Federal farm bureau of 1925, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the department of rural social economics of the University of South Carolina, shows that nearly two-thirds of all the tenant farmers in America are in the sixteen Southern States, the other one-third being scattered through the other thirty-two States.

According to these same records, more than one-half of the farms in the sixteen Southern States are operated by tenants, and in the ten cotton growing States, 57.8 per cent of the farms are operated by others than the owners.

Texas is fourth in the list among the States having the largest percentage of tenants, 60.4 per cent of the farms in this State being in the hands of tenants, while in 1920 only 53.3 per cent were so operated. This would indicate an increase in five years of more than 7 per cent and if this rate of increase were to be kept up for another twenty-five years, there would be practically no owners of farms upon their property at all.

Only one other Southern State, Oklahoma, showed a bigger gain in tenancy during the five-year period than did Texas, and Oklahoma's lead was only a fraction of 1 per cent over that of Texas.

Mr. Hobbs does not exaggerate the situation when he declares that "the greatest single economic and social problem in the South is the tenancy problem." Here in Texas, the bad results of the tenant system are becoming plainly visible. Decreasing fertility of the land, the penalty for failure to alternate crops and build up the soil; growing lack of well equipped and comfortable farm homes, decline of buildings upon farms; degeneracy of the grade of stock; smaller production per acre—these are some of the visible physical manifestations of the system of substituting tenant farming for owner farming.

In addition to these sad results, the school, the church and the community life generally in rural districts has been seriously affected by the increase of tenancy, and development in these realms gravely handicapped. It can not be expected that these social and community institutions will be as well supported by a people residing temporarily in the locality, the majority of whom have little or no accumulated wealth, who have no local ties, and no permanent stake in the community.

No one would undertake to say that among farm tenants there are not many estimable individuals, good farmers and good citizens, but it is nevertheless true that the tenant class is tending to become a group that is not vitally touched by the institutions that support our State's civilization, the church, the school and the other community enterprises that develop in a healthful way the social qualities of the people. Not only this, but the hard conditions under which many of the tenants live are tending to create much dissatisfaction, and as a class they are becoming susceptible to radical and unsound political propaganda, that bodes no good for the future political stability of the State.

There is urgent need for our leaders in thought to recognize the menacing features in the growth of tenancy, to summon their ingenuity in devising some way to check the spread of the evil, and through cooperative means strive to overcome in the meantime the worst of its bad results.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

Time Has Come When the South Must Diversify Crops

(From The Country Gentleman.)

Cotton was in a strong position at the end of the cotton year, July 31, 1925, when the carry-over was down to 1,555,514 bales. By the exercise of judgment in planting it could have been kept in a strong position. But the 1924, 1925 and 1926 plantings showed the acreage jumping three and four millions a year. By the end of the last cotton year, July 31, 1926, the carry-over had moved up to 3,542,560 bales—more than a comfortable quantity even without this year's heavy surplus being added to it.

These facts were well known at each stage of their development. For two years it has been apparent that more cotton was being grown than the world could take. So, too, it was well known that cotton acreage was expanding rapidly on the western range of the cotton belt as new and cheaper-producing lands were being brought in. Year by year Texas increased its acreage from 10,900,000 acres in 1921 to 18,948,000 this season; Oklahoma from 2,300,000 to 5,160,000 this year. The cotton trinity of the old belt—the country banker, the supply merchant and the landlord—shook their heads over this rising competition in the west—but went ahead financing the planting of as much cotton as ever.

Now the usual swearing-off process is on. A 25 per cent cut in acreage is being demanded. Whatever the effect of these resolutions, a reduction in both acreage and crop is certain to come next year. The pinch of circumstances, if nothing else, will attend to that.

But after that what? Is the old story of chasing prices with acreage to be repeated all over again?

Dominance in an industry goes with low cost of production. Texas averages 3.3 horsepower per farm worker, Oklahoma 4.3. The contour of the land, more individual farm ownership, less necessity for chopping cotton, with none at all in west Texas, a larger dependence on seasonal labor for picking—all allow the western cotton grower to use more machine and animal power and to handle much larger acreage. Then, too, the boll weevil, because of differing climatic conditions, is less of a hazard, or is absent altogether, as in west Texas.

Texas and Oklahoma now produce around 40 per cent of the total cotton crop. Their proportion is more likely to increase than otherwise, for there are still several million more acres adapted to cotton growing in west Texas waiting to be brought into production.

Except for certain individuals and localities favorably circumstanced to produce cotton in large volume or of a premium quality at relatively low cost, the old south should reduce its reliance on cotton as far and as fast as possible. It has many splendid climatic advantages for the production of other agricultural commodities. It falls far short of supplying its own food and feed needs, annually paying out to other sections for these articles a sum fully equal to the value of its cotton crop. It has rapidly developing industrial resources, which will mean larger markets near at hand for other products than cotton.

More than in any other section the financial and business interests of the south control agricultural operations. They should concern themselves with bringing these other opportunities into action, with setting up facilities for the financing and marketing of crops other than cotton, with helping their agriculture to make a gradual shift into safer and more profitable lines.

And, a better marketing plan failing to appear, they should lend all possible support to the cooperatives so that these may secure a sign-up of cotton growers that will allow them to be a real factor in the marketing of the crop. Their contracts expire with this year's crop. It is imperative that they go on.

A sharp and permanent cut in cotton acreage will meet with opposition. The cry will be raised that a large export surplus is needed to maintain the national trade balance. The answer is that it is better to lose our trade balance than to keep it at such a cost. There is no place in the American system for a "misery crop," a title which cotton long ago earned.

Agriculture - 1926
Condition of.

South Carolina.

NEWS
Batesburg - S.C.

Sumter S.C.
Item
DEC 2 1926

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Negro Farmers In Majority In South Carolina

Department of Rural Social Science, University of South Carolina

If the negro migration during the period of depression following the World War gave South Carolina's total population a white majority for the first time since 1810, and reliable estimates indicate that it did, no such condition exists as regards the total number of farmers. The 1925 Farm Census shows that the majority of the farms of the State are still operated by negro farmers.

Specifically, of the 172,761 farms, 90,578 are operated by colored farmers as compared with 82,183 by white, or the negroes outnumber the whites by 8,395. This simply means that over one-half the units of agricultural production are cultivated by negroes, and over one-half the farm population belongs to the colored race. However, in 1920 the negro farmers' majority was greater. Of the 192,693 given by the census, 109,010 were negro and 83,683 white, a negro majority of 25,327.

The per cent of the farm area, the improved lands and the farm wealth in the farms operated by negro farmers are facts not available for 1925, but the facts for 1920 suggest a condition that is not considerably less significant than that relative to farms. Thirty-five per cent of the total farm lands, 47.0 per cent of the improved land, and 36.0 per cent of the total value of land and buildings were in negro operated farms. Moreover, it is a conservative estimate that the negro farmers produce 45 per cent of the State's annual crop wealth.

These facts suggest very clearly that in South Carolina agricultural life, the negro holds a place of considerable magnitude with respect to both the number of farms and to the value of the annual crop production.

County Ratios.

The situation is intensified in a large number of counties. The negroes constitute over one-half of all farmers in more than two-thirds of the counties in the State. In Beaufort, of the 2,616 farms in the county, only 261 are operated by white farmers; the remainder, 2,355, by negroes. Thus nine in every ten farmers in Beaufort are negroes. Charleston, Fairfield, Jasper, Clarendon, and Allendale also show high ratios, with over three-fourths of their farms under negro cultivation. It is obvious that in these counties the matter of improving agricultural conditions must concern itself largely with negro farmers.

In only three counties does the negro farmers group constitute less than one-fourth the total number; Horry, 18.4 percent; Pickens, 17.1 per cent; and Oconee, 16.3 per cent. These are the counties of relatively low negro population ratios.

In a consideration of the negro farmer in connection with negro population (1920), the general tendency is noted that in a majority of the counties the negro forms a higher per cent of all farmers than he does of the total population. For example, in Beaufort where 90.0 per cent of the total population is so classed. Charleston presents an unusual case; 83.2 negro farmers and 59.2 per cent negro population. Similar conditions prevail in Fairfield, Jasper, Clarendon, Bamberg, Greenwood, Richland and numerous others. This indicates that throughout the State farming i left in a measure to the negro.

Negro Owners.

It might be maintained that in spite of the fact that negro farmers predominate in a large number of counties, the majority of them are tenants and hence the management of the farms is under White direction. There is something in this position. But as a matter of fact, negro farmers are becoming owners at a relatively rapid rate. In 1920, there were 22,759 negro farm owners in the State, or 21.0 per cent of all negro farmers. In 1910 the number was 20,372. Thus, the gain during the ten year period was 2,387, or 11.7 per cent. The increase in the number of white owners operators during the same period was from 43,978 to 44,965, or 2.2 per cent. Thus the negro gain was five times that of the white.

The figures for 1925 are not available, but there is little reason to assume that the number of negro owners has materially decreased. The 18,432 negro farmers who left the farms during 1920-1925 were not negro owners; they belonged largely to the transient cropper class.

The State's Responsibility.

The analysis presented above demonstrates with some force that in South Carolina negro farmers constitute a group of considerable magnitude in the State as a whole, that they form a majority in more than two-thirds of the counties, and that negro owner operators have shown a tendency to increase faster than whites.

The facts are undeniable; we cannot in justice to the State evade them. Whether we wish it or not they impose a problem with which leaders must reckon. It is the problem of improving negro farmers and negro agriculture for the economic welfare of the whole community. It must be apparent even to the casual student that if the State is to follow diversified farming, cease to become a slave to the one crop, cotton, increase wealth production and wealth retention, greater attention must be given to our vast mass of negro farmers.

In practically every study of rural economic and social South Carolina, we are everlastingly running across the situation that low incomes, poor schools, unfavorable health conditions, barren life prevail with high negro population ratios. In spite of opinions to the contrary, it is a demonstrable fact that the negro, in his present state, is a serious handicap to our rural progress.

The remedy for the situation may lie in a number of directions, but one thing is clear, and that is that our forces of education must be extended more forcefully to the negro. This is indicated not by any mistaken idea as to the position of the negro; it is demanded by the economic needs of the State.

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Agriculture - 1926

Improvement of.

Opelika Ala

JUL 2 1926

TO BOOST SHEEP RAISING

Interested Macon County Farmers Meet In Tuskegee

Tuskegee, Ala., July 17—All Macon County farmers, business men and land owners interested in the organization of a sheep growing association are invited to meet at the Courthouse in Tuskegee at 2 p. m. Saturday. E. A. Bealer will be present.

B. L. Lester, Tuskegee farmer, has 100 head of fine sheep and is enthusiastic over development of this industry in Macon County. Other farmers who have expressed interest are C. M. Howard, Phil Lightfoot, Forrest Bridges and Howard Lamar.

Macon County has hundreds of acres of fine grazing lands, proper management of which will produce abundant feed for cattle. The growing season is long, Summersnot excessivel yhot, rainfall abundant, Winters mild and many parts of the county are naturally adapted to production of good pastures.

Bullock County has recently organized this industry on a large scale and the movement is being fostered by the Union Springs bankers. the great sight every week, and it is natural to suppose that this number will gradually increase until the pond reaches its full capacity, when there will daily be a great and constant flow of people from the country at large a visit this largest artificial body of water in the United States.—Dadeville Spot Cash.

Alabama.

NAT'L AGRICULTURAL FRATERNITY ORGANIZES

In union there is strength. In numbers there is inspiration. Bound together by common ties and working toward a common end for a common purpose, this is the story of civilization—it is the secret of success. Pondering over these truisms and noting their effect in other life interests, a few agricultural workers representing several states and divisions of the vocation of agriculture met at Tuskegee Institute, July, 1926, and created an organization national in scope, known as the National Agricultural Fraternity. The officers elected were: B. F. Hubert, Director of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, president; T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, U. S. Extension Service, vice-president; H. B. Benson, secretary; C. P. Everett, treasurer, and Arthur Floyd, reporter.

Purpose of Organization

The aim of this fraternity is to mobilize and concentrate the intellectual, social, economic and recreational forces of the individuals whereby they may experience a closer fellowship and sympathetic relationship one toward the other, to the end that country life may be more profitable and enjoyable.

Convincing proof nor accumulative evidence of the necessity of such organization whose purpose will be as above outlined is not necessary when we consider the 925,000 colored farmers cultivating an area of approximately 45,000,000 acres. Working with these farmers in various capacities are to be found some five hundred county agricultural agents, and vocational teachers of agriculture known as Smith-Lever and Smith-Hughes agents representing the state and federal governments, in addition to the thousands of agricultural teachers directly engaged in the teaching of agriculture in the various agricultural schools and colleges of the country.

General Lack of Definite Organization

Too long, thinks this organization, has agriculture as a vocation struggled along in an individualistic manner and suffered the pit-falls and embrrassments which is the lot of any institution or life interest which follows such practice. Too long has she been relegated by lesser vocations to basement pews in the great hall of industry because she has been destitute of a constituted representative or spokesman. Such an organization by virtue of its purpose and timely appearance, should receive the serious consideration of every agricultural worker of the country.

Further information as to its policy, function and joining fees, write B. F. Hubert, president, or H. B. Benson, secretary. Both addresses are Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

National Agricultural Fraternity

Editor of the New York Age.

In union there is strength. In numbers there is inspiration. Bound together by common ties and working toward a common end for a common purpose this is the story of civilization, the secret of success. Pondering over these truisms and noting their effect in other life interests, a few agricultural workers representing several states and divisions of the vocation of agriculture met at Tuskegee Institute, July 1926, and created an organization national in scope known as the National Agricultural Fraternity. The officers elected were: B. F. Hubert, Director of Agriculture Tuskegee Institute, president; T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, U. S. Extension Service, vice president; H. B. Benson secretary; C. P. Everett, treasurer and Arthur Floyd, reporter.

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B. F. HUBERT,
Director of Agriculture,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Birmingham, Ala., [illegible]

AUG 28 1926

NEGRO GETS BONUS

ROANOKE, Ala., Aug. 28.—Roanoke's first bale of 1926 cotton was brought in Wednesday and sold at auction to J. R. Dunson, manager of the W. A. Handley Manufacturing Co., for 23 1-4 cents a pound. The business men raised a bonus to be given for the first bale and this made the cotton bring a little more than 32c. The cotton was raised by Lon Tiller, negro.

Agriculture - 1926

Alabama.

Improvement of

ELMORE ELECTRICALLY EQUIPPED HOME VISITED BY DELEGATES

Residence of J. P. Storrs Reveals Labor Saving in Modern Fixtures; Dairy Plant of Montgomery Man Also Surveyed by Conference Visitors; Leave For Birmingham Today

A fish fry at the farm home of Seth P. Storrs, near Wetumpka, in the afternoon and a banquet at the Exchange hotel in the evening concluded the second Annual Rural Electrification conference in Montgomery.

At 8 o'clock Thursday morning the visitors will board a special train for Birmingham but will stop en route to see rural electrical projects and properties of the Alabama Power company which are among the largest hydro-electrical generating plants in operation.

The special train is due to arrive in Birmingham at 2 p. m. Thursday and from the train the party will form a motorcade and drive over the city to see electrical developments and other industries there. A banquet in Birmingham Thursday evening will bring the conference to a close.

During the two days in Montgomery frequent mention was made of the fact that it was the first regional rural electrification conference ever held anywhere and all who attended it agreed that it was a complete success. Resolutions thanking the people of Montgomery and those who made the conference possible were passed unanimously at the forenoon

While on the Storrs farm the members of the party, numbering more than 200 saw electric power at work irrigating a three-acre field for trucking and for nursery, and they saw also the work of electricity on many other jobs to which it lends itself.

The beautiful farm home of Mr. Storrs had been completely electrified for the occasion. It was being used for lights, for cooking, for refrigeration, for washing, for heating water, for pumping water, for ironing, for churning, for cleaning, and for numerous small household purposes just as it is used in the most modern city homes.

Returning to Montgomery they saw electricity in practical operation on the dairy farm of E. E. Price. E. C. Easter, of Auburn, engineer in charge of the work in Alabama, told them that the equipment on the Price farm was just as he installed and was not arranged for the occasion.

The work in Alabama was agreed to be more complete and more advanced than that of any other state, and the delegates who came from nine other states were loud in their praise of the Alabama work which is being done by the Agricultural college of Auburn in co-operation with the Alabama Power company.

The development of a refrigeration business that will rival in volume and service railroads, steamboats, telephone, automobiles and radio was predicted by F. B. Riley of the Servel corporation in an address Wednesday morning.

Mr. Riley intimated that the time is coming when most homes will be equipped with a small automatic refrigerating machine as a result of the hydro-electric business. He said also that just as refrigerating machines are now in use for ice cream in drug stores, the time is not far distant when beverage cabinets will be installed at roadside markets, garages, and at other places where cold drinks are sold, provided electricity is available.

Turning to the rural side of his subject, the speaker said that refrigeration holds in store a great deal to all farmers but that it is especially advantageous for dairy farmers who must handle their products properly in order to maintain quality.

C. H. Middlemiss, of the Alabama Power company, discussed rural transmission lines. He told of the many unexpected costs involved and appealed for cooperation of farmers in construction of lines as well as in use of current after it becomes available.

Professor C. E. Seitz gave a report on rural electrification in Virginia and Professor H. W. Barre made a similar report for South Carolina. These two states and Alabama are the only three in the south now engaged in rural electrical work which is being done by the college of agriculture in cooperation with the power companies.

Professor M. L. Nichols gave a report of research electrical work at Auburn which is being done in conjunction with the investigational work throughout the state.

The resolutions passed follow:

"Whereas, the Southern Rural Electrification conference, the first of its kind held in the United States, now in session at Montgomery, Ala., has been a success from every standpoint, and the delegates assembled, desire to express their appreciation to the men and organizations that have contributed to the pleasure of the delegates, and to the success of the meeting in the following resolutions:

"Resolved, first: We extend our thanks to Governor W. W. Brandon for his inspiring words of welcome in behalf of the state of Alabama;

"Second: To Dr. E. A. White for the able and courteous manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the conference;

"Third: To Professor E. C. Easter, for his excellent and unselfish services as secretary of this conference;

"Fourth: To the Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery for the many courtesies extended by Secretary Black and his corps of assistants;

"Fifth: To the Alabama Power company for the delightful and educational entertainment provided the delegates, which contributed in a large measure to the success of the meeting;

"Sixth: To the newspapers of Montgomery, The Advertiser, Journal and Times, for their generosity in the allotment of space to this convention, their cooperation to the fullest in assisting in the preliminary spread of news, as well as publishing full accounts during each day of the convention, and

"Seventh: To Frank M. Spangler, cartoonist of The Montgomery Advertiser, for his artistry in depicting electricity in its proper sphere, as lifting the burden of unnecessary toil from the overworked farmer and his wife, and thus afforded an expanded field of vision and enjoyment of farm life through these messages of constructive hope.

"Eighth: To S. P. Storrs we extend our sincere thanks for his generous hospitality to the delegates and his instructive contribution to the program of the convention.

"Lastly: To everyone who has contributed in the smallest measure to our comfort and pleasure we extend our sincere thanks.

"Resolved further, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and copies be given to the press."

A Vision of Alabama Freed From Cotton Bondage

By JOSEPH O. THOMPSON

I often hear Dr. David James Burrell preach here in New York. He is eighty years old, but still one of America's greatest pulpit orators.

In a recent sermon he preached on the subject, "The Blind Receive Their Sight." He said, "As in the case of Bror Bartimeaus! It is an awful thing to be blind." This was the sorrow that brought forth the lament of Milton in his latter days:

"O dark, dark, dark amid the blaze of noon!
Irrevocably dark, total eclipse,
Without one hope of day."

But to be blind in the Valley of Jericho—the most beautiful valley in the world. Ah, that was sorrow's crown of sorrow.

Bartemeaus' case was desperate. It would have been so but for one forlorn hope. He was told by a passerby of a man who had recently been going up and down the land healing the sick. But asked Bartemeaus, "Did he ever heal a blind man?" The answer came back quickly, "Aye, one who had been blind from his birth."

As I reflect over the case of Bartemeaus, I have thought of our blindness in the Black Belt of Alabama, our beautiful Valley of Jericho, but our sight can be restored without a miracle. Our situation is more than a forlorn hope. We only have to remove the cotton bandage that has been a self-inflicted blindness since the Civil War.

Do this, and we will see Vaughan and Beeler's sheep multiply by the thousands, we will see Rodger's, Webb's, Store's Davies', Comer's and Be-ver-ly Holley's pecan orchards increased over and over again; we will see others catch the spirit of the McCurdys, the Duggers, the Bledsoes, and Vails dairying industry occupying thousands of acres of lands never intended for anything but dairies, lands teeming with Bermuda, lespedeza, paspallum, alfalfa, melilotus, burr clover, Johnson grass, red clover, just waiting to be cropped.

We will se the example of Hilton of Atmore and Monroe county potato growers followed by hundreds of others. We will see the example of Judge Charles Thomas, William Teague, Gray Henderson and Dunnaway and Lambert in the growing of Duroc hogs followed more extensively. We will see farmers looking up Lambert of Darlington, Boyd of Auburn and learn from these practical men the value of bur clover, hairy vetch and innumerable other clovers, and how they can be employed in our diversified agriculture.

They will look up Judge Stokley, Bob Goode, Will Howard Smith; again Gray Henderson; again Judge Thomas and again Dunnaway and Lambert and revive the State's interest in growing beef cattle.

A Long Island Demonstration

Last week I was a guest of H. B. Fullerton of Medford, Long Island, agricultural agent of Long Island railroad, who, together with his wife, Mrs. Edith Lorring Fullerton (for she is his co-worker) have for twenty years been engaged in demonstrating the possibilities of Long Island lands for agricultural purposes. Twenty years ago the Long Island lands were valued at a dollar to six dollars per acre, with no purchasers. Mr. Fullerton saw these lands increase in value in fifteen years to an average of only $20 per acre, but five years ago he began to bring in settlers on small tracts in different groups, Italians, French, Armenians, Poles, Ukranians, Lithuanians, Rumanians, Hungarians and Bohemians. These people are now growing thousands of acres of potatoes, cauliflower, lettuce, tomatoes, beans, peas, mellons and Pekin ducks, the latter the most attractive crop to me.

I would, if space permitted, like to tell the results of the various crops, and how these Europeans obtain a net income of from $500 to $1,500 per acre on lands that only five years ago could have been bought for $20 per acre, now worth $200 to $2,000. I am almost afraid to write the actual facts as when I first heard them—they seemed incredible to me before I investigated. These Long Island lands are nothing but sandy lands, not as good as our sandy hammocks or Norfolk sandy loam by any means, and when Mr. Fullerton began to bring settlers on them, they were referred to as scrub oak waste and pine barrens.

Duck Profits

Reverting to the Pekin duck, the Island is now growing four millions per annum. The profits average between 30 cents and 50 cents per duck. They weigh from six to seven pounds, and bring on the market 25 cents to 30 cents per pound. They are hatched, grown and marketed in eleven weeks, then they start in and do it all over again.

I inspected H. E. Mott's duck farm closely. I selected him as he is an average duck-grower and learned these facts: He grows 25,000 ducks, to which he feeds 200 tons of mixed feed on 14 1-2 acres. He buys practically all of his feed in the West. He and three hired men do the work. His gross income is about $37,500—about the gross income of a plantation that grows 400 bales of cotton, and this cotton plantation will employ at least 60 mules, 150 hands and 1,200 acres of land. I am now comparing the

average production on a 14 1-2 acre duck farm and the average production on a 1,200 acre cotton farm. 25,000 ducks—14 1-2 acres—four hands—gross, $37,500; 400 bales of cotton; 1,200 acres, 60 mules, 150 hands, $37,500. A man would have to be as blind as Bartemeaus not to understand and appreciate this comparison.

Now I hope everyone who reads this will not go duck-crazy at one time, but if it succeeds in causing one man in Alabama to see ducks, the duck germ wil be planted and will affect the minds of scores of others, and in a decade one driving along the public highways may hear on every pond and running stream the quack quack of the Pekin duck and see miles of beautiful white feathers, a real delight to the eye. Then The Advertiser will feel repaid for giving space for the publication of this account of the Long Island duck industry.

Long Island's Prophets

It will be interesting to know that three men saw the agricultural possibilities of Long Island back twenty years ago. They were H. B. Fullerton, a native of Ohio, a man of varied experience, and a great traveler, agricultural agent at the time of the Long Island railroad. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, his neighbor on Long Island, grandson of Governor Arch Bullock of Georgia, and President Ralph Peters of the Long Island railroad, a native Georgian, grandson of Judge Peters of that state. Colonel Roosevelt came into intimate contact with Mr. Fullerton and they together convinced the hard-headed business man, Ralph Peters, that money should be spent to carry out Fullerton's ideas, and now the railroad is being paid over and over again in increased passenger and freight traffic. One man like H. B. Fullerton in Alabama with a set purpose of bringing in Europeans from our congested city centers such as he has put in Long Island to develop numerous units for various crops would soon drive the average value of lands in the State to $100 per acre. They are intrinsically worth more now, but it would be fatal to advance the prices too rapidly, as it is now fatal to hold them at such a low level. One hundred dollars is about right.

Our Lands Too Low-Priced

As soon as we place the higher value on our lands, the people throughout America will begin to come to Alabama to look for cause of advance and will soon find it, whereas as long as the land is around $30 per acre, they are wondering if there is not something seriously wrong, as they did regarding the Long Island lands when they were $1 to $6 per acre. We have overlooked the psychological effect in placing land values in Alabama. No reader of this paper ever knew speculators to become interested in cheap property, but let it begin to advance toward its proper level and at once interest is enlivened and people are attracted from throughout the nation.

Alabama is suffering from the effect of the lowest priced lands in the South and as long as they are considered by their owners as cheap as they are being held, the world will so consider them and let them severely alone. Let's place the proper appreciation on our lands, and then develop the crops that make the values. This is important.

It is an awful thing to be blind, but to be cotton blinded in the beautiful Black Belt of Alabama, our beautiful valley of Jericho, this is sorrow's crown of sorrow.

New York City.

Mobile, Ala., Register

MAY 24 1926

SUCCESSFUL NEGRO FARMER.

(From Centreville Press.)

There is a colored man living on the Avery place, near here, who has one of the finest gardens we have seen, and the fattest and sleekest mules, and his crop is in splendid condition. This colored man and his family are evidently thrifty and hustling farmers, and he is setting a splendid pace for others who should do likewise. Where the entire family hustles it makes a lot of difference in the appearance of things. He has a Ford car but it is parked in the garage and stays there until his work is completed. You don't find that sort of farmer on the highways all times of the day. He is entitled to ride, however, because he works and keeps up with his business.

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Centreville Press
5-28-26
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PRIZES OFFERED IN POULTRY CONTEST

Trustees of Tuskegee Institute Plan to Encourage Students To Raise Poultry

BY BENJAMIN F. HUBERT,
Director of Agriculture

TUSKEGEE, ALA., June 22.—Special to The Advertiser: Word has come from Irving S. Merrell and wife, trustees of Tuskegee institute, that they will again offer prizes for excellence in poultry production. The prizes will be open to the members of Tuskegee institute staff and student body who are interested in the poultry contest.

This year the Merrells not only offer the $100 prizes given last year for general high average production for a pen of ten or more hens, but they offer another set of prizes of $135 for a trap nested pen of hens that show highest individual hen records.

Previous Contest Success

Merrell, in speaking of last year's contest made these significant statements. There was a total of 331 pens entered in the contest. These hens laid 16,234 eggs from October 1 to April 1. Each hen in the pen of hens of highest average production laid an average of 93 eggs. Each hen in the pen of lowest average production laid an average of 28 eggs per hen. If all hens in the contest had laid as many eggs as the winning pen owned by Dr. R. R. Moton, there would have been a total of 30,574 eggs or almost twice as many eggs as were laid. If all the hens in the south had laid as many eggs as our highest pen the income from the hen industry would probably have been increased 300 per cent.

When it is understood that the average yearly production of each hen in the great state of Georgia is only 54 eggs per year, while there are hens that produce from 250 to 330 eggs per year, it can readily be seen that there is a great field for improvement in the poultry industry here in the south.

Looking to the Future

Since nearly every home in the country and the small town has poultry, it is felt that by emphasizing this phase of agriculture we can interest practically every one and thereby bring about great improvement in farming in the south.

The plan is to trap nest the hens in the contest for 1926-'27 and breed only from the hens of high individual records. After a time we plan to have hens of pedigreed records of 300 or more eggs per year.

From Tuskegee it is our plan to carry this idea of standardized, high producing hens to the entire south. Along with this high egg production we plan to market these eggs cooperatively, so that we will encourage communities to find better markets for their products by proper grading, packing and selling together.

Contest Begins October 1

The next contest begins October 1, 1926. This is the time of the year when eggs are usually scarce and hens usually here in the south go in for winter quarters.

Previous prize winners were:
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Evans Cooper, Misses Louise and Margaret Washington, fifth prize.

The prize winners for next year will need pure bred, one-year-old pullets from high producing strains, clean, well lighted, comfortable houses. Plenty of the right kind of feed and fresh water. These things, together with the right kind of attention, will give the results desired.

JUL 15 1926

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F. G. Manly, negro agent for Elmore and Coosa Counties, said in his report: "Interest is still being kept up in the home garden. We have more and better gardens among the farmers than we ever had.

"Many of the farmers' wives have had vegetables to sell, not only in the towns but among those who did not take interest in their gardens. One wife had kept account of her sales and up to now she has sold to farmers right around her home $27.83 worth of commodities. Another wife has sold $32.50 worth of commodities in the town of Wetumka."

The same situation was reported by D. D. Crawford, negro agent, for Tallapoosa County, who said: "Spring gardens though deteriorating somewhat for want of rains, are unusually good, especially those registering in the Southern Ruralist Garden Contest. Of these there are 32 in number and the owners of these gardens, both urban and rural, are doing more real gardening than at any time prior to now. A greater variety of vegetables is being grown an consummed by these families and more is being put on the local markets than before. Thus far the old custom of letting the garden lie fallow after the early crops have been harvested is not being practiced, but a succession of crops is planted.

Seasons and other things being favorable, the record for green gardens the year-round in this county this year will be broken."

B. F. Hill, negro agent, told how the negro farmers of Limestone County are raising plants for themselves and saving money thereby.

Three hotbeds were started early last spring in one community as a demonstration and approximately 100,000 plants were taken from these beds during the season. Heretofore, the negro farmers of this community have been sending about $300.00 a year to other sections for spring plants.

The Italian goverment is proposing that Irish potatoes replace spaghetti in the national Italian diet as an economy, and to reduce the amount of wheat imported.

Fancy Berries

STRAWBERRY KING OUTLINES SYSTEM

Castleberry Farmer Conducts Demonstration in Raising Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 16.—Matthew G. Gross, of Castleberry, known as the "strawberry king," of Conecuh county, demonstrated methods of raising bumper strawberry crops in the patch of T. M. Campbell here Wednesday morning before a group of vocational teachers of agriculture representing the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Gross, who for 23 years has experimented in growing the strawberry, has got as high as 185 crates per acre, while the average yield per acre in Conecuh county is 75 crates.

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F. G. Manly, negro agent for Elmore and Coosa Counties, said in his report: "Interest is still being kept up in the home garden. We have more and better gardens among the farmers than we ever had.

"Many of the farmers' wives have had vegetables to sell, not only in the towns but among those who did not take interest in their gardens. One wife had kept account of her sales and up to now she has sold to farmers right around her home $27.83 worth of commodities. Another wife has sold $32.50 worth of commodities in the town of Wetumka."

The same situation was reported by D. D. Crawford, negro agent, for Tallapoosa County, who said: "Spring gardens though deteriorating somewhat for want of rains, are unusually good, especially those registering in the Southern Ruralist Garden Contest. Of these there are 32 in number and the owners of these gardens, both urban and rural, are doing more real gardening than at any time prior to now. A greater variety of vegetables is being grown an consummed by these families and more is being put on the local markets than before. Thus far the old custom of letting the garden lie fallow after the early crops have been harvested is not being practiced, but a succession of crops is planted.

Seasons and other things being favorable, the record for green gardens the year-round in this county this year will be broken."

B. F. Hill, negro agent, told how the negro farmers of Limestone County are raising plants for themselves and saving money thereby.

Three hotbeds were started early last spring in one community as a demonstration and approximately 100,000 plants were taken from these beds during the season. Heretofore, the negro farmers of this community have been sending about $300.00 a year to other sections for spring plants.

The Italian goverment is proposing that Irish potatoes replace spaghetti in the national Italian diet as an economy, and to reduce the amount of wheat imported.

STRAWBERRY KING OUTLINES SYSTEM

Castleberry Farmer Conducts Demonstration in Raising Fancy Berries

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 16.—Matthew G. Gross, of Castleberry, known as the "strawberry king," of Conecuh county, demonstrated methods of raising bumper strawberry crops in the patch of T. M. Campbell here Wednesday morning before a group of vocational teachers of agriculture representing the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Gross, who for 23 years has experimented in growing the strawberry, has got as high as 185 crates per acre, while the average yield per acre in Conecuh county is 75 crates.

Agriculture – 1926
Improvement of.

The Electrical Age and the Farmer

By JAMES E. DAVIDSON, President of the National Electric Light Association

We of the electric light industry are taking part in a great national divorce involving nearly ever farm-house in America. It is up to us, in co-operation with the farmer and the electrical manufacturer, to divorce back-breaking, health-wrecking drudgeries from the farm houses of America, and make living and labor pleasant enough to induce our young men to remain there instead of flooding the cities with good farmers. It is one time when everyone connected with a divorce has an agreeable task.

The farmers' families desire the same conveniences as their city cousins. They want proper light to read and work by. The farmers do not want their wives and mothers to break their backs over the old wash-boiler, and with the broom. They want electric washing machines. They want less muscle strain and more equipment operated by electricity.

and rightfully so, too!

We in the electric light and power industry realize their problem or may I call it plight—for that is what it is in every meaning of the word.

Even though the farmers keenly appreciate what electricity will do for them—revolutionize their social habits; make their homes actually livable; transform their wives and mothers into "home-keepers" instead of "house-keepers"—even though they realize all of this—they are patient, knowing full well that we of the industry are hastening "The Day."

"Der Tag" was the great day on which the old imperialistic German government awaited world supremacy. They were impatient and disaster and catastrophe followed.

The farmers of America patiently awai "Der Tag"—the great electrical day whe their families will be released from th shackles of household slavery and thei boys will be encouraged to remain on th farm because the back-breaking labors have been eliminated by the modern servant—electricity.

It is the great day awaited by the electric light and power industry for we realize what our product will do. We want the farmer to have the same conveniences and the same benefits from electricity as the city dweller.

It is the great day for all mankind, for all will benefit.

Not a Simple Problem

In attempting to solve this most important problem, there are many intricate and detailed questions to be answered. Distribution of electric energy is the big problem. It is the greatest obstacle in the path of general farm electrification. If it was not for distribution, the question would be an easy one to solve.

Because pressure or voltage of electricity decreases in proportion to the distance it is transmitted, power of low voltage can not be economically distributed over long distances. Therefore, this must be overcome by producing power of high voltage. Then, it must be passed through the transformer, which reduces it to a low voltage necessary for motors, heating appliances and lamps.

Transformers are very expensive because they use up electric energy when in use or not. This is known as "transformer losses." Also, there is an expense in keeping transformers in workable condition.

Where ten to twenty or as high as one hundred houses are grouped together, they obtain current through the same transformer and the expense is divided into small units. Farms are so scattered, generally, that one transformer is needed for each home.

And even when high voltage transmission lines pass by, the cost and difficulties involved in transforming the energies from these lines makes the price of service in many instances prohibitive.

The question of electrifying farms is not a new one to our industry. Since the establishment of the first electric light we have been trying to find a way of doing so on a sound financial basis, both to the farmer and the industry. The electric utilities are just as anxious to furnish electric service to the farmers as the farmers are to receive it.

300,000 Farms Lighted

And we are on our way for there are now more than 300,000 farms in the United States being furnished electricity from electric power and light companies. In order to hasten the great day which I have referred to, many experimental rural lines are being scientifically operated. These lines are located in fourteen states, including New York, Minnesota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Iowa and California.

The results of these especially constructed lines, the expense of which in nearly every instance, is being borne by the electric light industry, are being tabulated and published for general use of the public and the power and light companies.

The master minds and the genius of our great industry have been marshalled to solve this most complicated and intricate problem. It must and it will be solved, both to the satisfaction and the safeguard of the people, generally, and the farmer and electric light companies specifically.

The farmer wants electric service but he wants it at a price he can afford to pay and does not want his government, the people generally, and the electric light companies, to give him alms or charity.

For a Fair Return

The electric light companies want to furnish him service, more than for mere profit making, for they realize it is their solemn duty and obligation to furnish electric service to everyone possible. But still, the power companies must and should receive a fair return on the value of their properties. They owe that much, at least, to the three millions of holders of their securities ranging from men and women who own shares of stock to insurance companies, universities, and banks which own our bonds.

The industry has co-operated closely with the farmers in attempting to solve this rural problem. Joint commissions composed of representatives of agricultural colleges, farm organizations, electric light companies, departments of our government and electrical manufacturers are co-operating, studying, working and investigating in connection with the experimental rural lines.

The farmer representatives and the professors of agricultural colleges who are members of those commissions appreciate the problem and know that we are doing everything within our power to hasten the day of the electrification of the farm—but they are patient for they realize that if this work is carried on without proper guidance and thinking, economic disaster will result and the work will then be thrown back many years.

They feel that the farmer should wait until the engineering scholar and the scientist say "Go," instead of moving forward on the snap judgment of professional critics who have no prestige or finances at stake.

Alabama.

ELECTRIC RANGES USED BY FARMERS

One Hundred Twenyt-Five in Operation Now Against Eighty-Five Last Year

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 29.—Special to The Advertiser.—Electric ranges are now in use in 125 Alabama farm homes, compared with 85 one year ago, according to a progress report of E. C. Easter, who is studying rural electrical problems under a cooperative agreement of the Agricultural Experiment Station here and the Alabama Power company.

A study has been made by Mr. Easter of the desirability of the electric range under normal conditions. He found that the average cost of supplying electricity for a range is about $5.00 per month. However, the rate for electricity varies with the rate and amount used, and the average cost is not applicable to individual cases.

Although no long-time experiments have been conducted in Alabama as to fuel cost of other types of stoves and ranges, experiments conducted in California and other states show that the cost of fuel is approximately $4 per month.

From the data collected by Mr. Easter the electric range saves time and energy for the household, makes the kitchen more comfortable in summer, is clean, has automatic heat control, reduces fire risk, and makes it possible in many cases for rural communities to get electric service. The disadvantages of it are: initial cost, inconvenience in heating water unless electric water heater is installed, and insufficient heat given off to warm kitchen in winter.

SAFE FARM... AN ADOPTED AT JOINT INTERESTS MEET

Marketing and Agriculture Committees of Alabama Bankers, Auburn and State Heads Perfect Program

RECOMMEND STATE FEED

SELF AND RAISE STOCK

Suggest Cotton Acreage Be Governed by Proper Fertilization and Handling

Recommendation that Alabama feed herself, that the cotton acreage be confined to that which can be fertilized and handled properly under boll weevil conditions, that more work stock and farm machines be used, that more live stock be raised, that soil fertility be maintained and improved, and that farm products be sold cooperatively, are the leading features of a permanent safe farming program worked out and adopted for Alabama bankers, officials of organizations of farmers, and heads of public organizations and agencies engaged in agricultural work, in conference in Montgomery Wednesday.

The conference was called for the purpose of working out such a program in view of threatening danger of over-production of cotton, underproduction of feed crops, and disappointment of farmers because of failure to practice safe-farming plans and methods.

Prominent bankers and agricultural workers who took part in the conference were Ulay W. Black, Georgiana, and Allen Northington, of the Alabama Bankers' association; J. M. Moore, commissioner of agriculture; Edward A. O'Neal, president of the Alabama Farm bureau; Prof. L. N. Duncan, Prof. M. J. Funchess and F. W. Gist, of Auburn; and other bankers and agricultural workers from various parts of the state.

Before a program was adopted F. W. Gist told the conferees of the agricultural situation, both state and national, as shown by a statistical analysis. Cotton figures presented by him indicate an over-production of cotton unless farmers take steps to avoid it. He said that the carryover of American cotton on July 31 last was 1,600,000 bales; and that, at the present rate of consumption and export, 2,813,000 bales will be the carry over the last of next July. He pointed out that the prospective carryover at the end of this fiscal year will be approximately double that at the end of the last and called attention to the dangers of planting another bumper acreage in cotton on the face of the large amount already made.

While calling attention to the dan-

gers of too much cotton Mr. Gist did not recommend a decrease in cotton acreage. He said that a reduction of 25 per cent would be unwise and unsound. The cotton plank in the program recommended that cotton be confined to the acres "that can be fertilized and handled properly under present boll weevil conditions and scarcity of labor."

On the other hand, Mr. Gist showed a big shortage of feed crops in Alabama. The 1925 corn crop was 37,000,000 bushels while the annual needs of the state is estimated to be 75,000,000 bushels, which means that Alabama farmers raised in 1925 only half the corn the state will need in 1926.

Mr. Gist said that the hay crop was not over one-third of the needs of the state and that only 3 of the 67 counties produce as many eggs as they need. Birmingham, Montgomery Mobile and other consuming centers continue to import eggs from other states in carlots.

To put this program into practice throughout the state, C. W. Stewart, banker, of Opelika, suggested and the suggestion was strongly endorsed by Ulay W. Black, banker of Georgiana that the key banker selected by the agricultural committee of the Alabama Bankers' association as contact banker, to call a meeting of all bankers in his county to form a local association.

The suggestion was adopted unanimously. Allen Northington, banker and manager of the Farm Bureau Cotton Marketing association called attention to the very great need for better cotton which can be raised by planting good seed of those varieties which produce cotton of the right quality and staple, as recommended by Auburn.

The program as adopted follows:

"We recommend the following general policies for the permament guidance of those farmers who desire to make their plan of operation conform to existing conditions:

"1. Such a distribution of crop acreage on each farm as will result in:

"(a) The production of sufficient feed to supply all livestock kept on the farm.

"(b) The production of such amounts and kinds of family food as may be economically grown.

"(c) The production of such amounts and kinds of food and feed commodities for sale as may be economically grown and marketed.

"(d) Plant only as many acres in cotton as can be fertilized and handled properly under present boll weevil conditions and scarcity of labor.

"(e) The development and maintenance of soil fertility to such a degree as will result in profitable acre-yields.

"(f) The elimination of costly labor peaks, and an economic distribution of labor over the entire season.

"2. Such increased use of machinery and workstock as will enable available farm labor to compete with other sections in the production of crops, and to meet varying prices in relation to demand.

"3. The growth on the farm of all livestock needed for farm use, and surpluses of livestock and livestock products for sale as may be economically produced and marketed.

"4. The recognition and practice of the principle of quality production in order to find the most profitable consumption.

"5. The recognition and practice of the principle of co-operative buying and selling of purely farm commodities, and of orderly marketing.

"6. The use of the least expensive systems of farm credit available, that agriculture may enjoy equal benefits with industry and commerce in economic credits.

"7. The setting up and future maintenance of permanent farming systems on each farm in order to meet price fluctuations, and stabilize production.

"8. Hearty cooperation with all official agencies in the dissemination of dependable information concerning farm practices and production.

"We demand for agriculture equality in legislation, in taxation, in transportation facilities, in education, and in such standards of living as will make the farm and farm home attractive to the farmer and his family.

"We ask the hearty cooperation of all persons in business and social contact with the farmer in establishing this permanent program in every county in this state.

"We present this program in the belief that it will enable the farmer to work out his own success by the exercise of intelligence, independent thought, and thrifty conduct of his own affairs."

The Alabama Bankers' association was represented by Ulay W. Black, of Georgiana; Allen Northington, Montgomery; C. W. Stewart, Opelika; Ralph Moore, Prattville; Parke Smith, Greenville and C. B. Smith, Wetumpka.

The Farm bureau was represented by E. A. O'Neal and W. D. Barton.

J. M. Moore and H. C. Smith represented the state department of agriculture.

The extension service, experiment station and agricultural college of Auburn were represented by Prof. L. N. Duncan, Prof. M. J. Funchess, F. W. Gist, W. O. Winston, M. H. Pearson, E. E. Binford, J. T. High and P. O Davis.

Farm Wages Higher In 1925 Is Report From Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Farm wages were higher in 1925 than in any year since 1920, and were three times as high as at the close of the civil war, the department of agriculture reported today.

Reckoned by an index system based upon 100 as the average value for the years 1910-14, farm wages were 54 in 1865, 102 in 1915, 239 in 1920, and 146 in 1925, after the index number rose to 166 in 1923 and 1924, and 168 in 1925.

USE OF ELECTRICITY ON FARMS IN SOUTH WILL BE DISCUSSED

Every Phase of Rural Electric Service To Be Outlined by Authorities on This Subject

TWO INSPECTION TRIPS INCLUDED IN PROGRAM

Plan Meets With Approval of Executives of State Polytechnic Institute

Southern rural electrification conference, the first sectional meeting of its kind ever held in the United States, has been called for this city, beginning April 6, and continuing through April 8. The conference was officially called Tuesday by Dr. E. A. White, director of the national committee on relation of electricity to agriculture, E. A. O'Neal, chairman of the Alabama committee, and officers of the Virginia committee, who are sponsoring the meeting.

In issuing the call, the three committees, whose memberships include representatives of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Alabama Farm bureau federation and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, emphasis was given to the fact that the South is rapidly awakening to the importance of electrified farming and dairying and that the purpose of the conference is to bring together the South's leaders in this new phase of agriculture for a general discussion of the subject.

The program will include addresses and discussions on every phase of rural electric service. The speakers and delegates will be from among the leaders in agriculture and electric power in every southern state. High executives in national and state affairs will be in attendance and will participate in the discussions.

An interesting feature of the program will be two inspection trips, one to a completely electrified farm and dairy near Montgomery, and the other will include an automobile trip from Montgomery to Birmingham, during which two of the South's largest electric developments and a number of rural electrified projects will be visited.

"Alabama is the logical place to hold the conference," declared Dr. White, who came down from Chicago to complete plans for the meeting. "Here you have rural electrification almost beyond the experimental stage; you have demonstrated that electricity can be feasibly applied to agriculture under both favorable and unfavorable conditions, and the national committee feels privileged that it can assist in bringing Alabama's splendid work to the attention of the South and nation. What Alabama has done can, in my judgment be duplicated in other states, if the proper thought and effort are exerted by the agricultural colleges, demonstration agents and power producers.

"It is the hope of those calling this conference that a representative attendance can be had and that the discussions and demonstrations will be the real first step toward a completely electrified South and, I may add, nation.

"There is no phase of community life not affected, directly or indirectly by agricultural development," declared Mr. O'Neal while discussing the importance of the conference. "In my opinion, the work which is being done in this and other states toward removing with electricity many of the drudgeries of rural life is one of the greatest steps taken with a view of putting farm life in the South on a par with that in other sections of the country. I realize that there are many problems yet to be solved and the best way to solve them is to bring the ultimate consumers and the power producers together for a mutual discussion. I am glad to sponsor a conference to be held here, as I feel that Alabama has something tangible to show the people of the South which will rebound to their advantage and profit."

Executives of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who are, perhaps, in the best position to appreciate and understand the problems confronting rural electrification, concur in the views expressed by Dr. White and Mr. O'Neal and believe the conference will aid materially in giving added impetus to the movement.

It is understood that 1,000 representative farmers, dairymen, poultrymen, college instructors and power company officials will be invited to attend the conference, the sessions of which will be held in the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

SEASON COTTON POOL CLOSES WITH ENORMOUS GAIN

Increase of 26,000 Bales For Farm Bureau Association

Over Last Fiscal Year Report Shows

REPRESENTS OVER TWO AND HALF MILLION DOLLARS

Total of $55,000 Distributed in Membership Fees; Limestone Gets Largest Amount

The cotton association of the Alabama Farm Bureau will receive no more of this season's cotton after the close of business Monday afternoon, the time set for the closing of the cotton pool this year, announcement was made Saturday by Allen Northington, manager. Saturday's estimate placed the increase in cotton received this year over last at 26,000 bales, representing $2,600,000.

Total receipts for the season will run close to 106,000 bales as against approximately 80,000 for the cotton season last year. The increase is attributed to the greater confidence of the farmers in the association and the increased crop.

Mr. Northington attended a meeting of directors of the Autauga county farm bureau Saturday and reported that all present at the meeting signed the cotton association's new marketing agreement which is a seven instead of a five year contract as formerly held.

Member Fees Distributed

The Alabama Farm Bureau also made distribution of membership fees Saturday amounting to approximately $55,000 to the sixty active county farm bureaus which compose it. Membership of the state body is now a little more than 11,000 and fees paid by the membership are collected by the state organization, after which one-half is sent to the counties in which the members are and the rest goes toward the state and American farm bureau organizations.

The greatest amount received by any county in this distribution of membership fees was $2,500 which went to Limestone county. Lauderdale, Marion, Escambia, Houston and Elmore were also among the big membership counties. Only $240 went to Montgomery county.

Alabama.

Agriculture - 1926

Improvement of

SOUTHERN DAIRIES AND THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA

The fact that Southern Dairies, Inc., a $5,000,000 concern, has come into the Black Belt of Alabama is no longer news to the people of this section; but the decision of the company is an event which possibly means more to the Black Belt than to the company itself. In particular does it mean a great deal to the city and county of Montgomery.

Advertiser 3-29-26

Establishment of one of its plants in Montgomery marks the addition of one more constructive enterprise to the community, one more agency whose private interests will prosper in exact ratio to the prosperity of the community and section; in other words, as it aids in the development of the particular industry in which it is interested, it will aid directly in putting the Black Belt on a sounder basis.

Montgomery Ala

Montgomery county and the rest of the Black Belt are looking to dairying as a means to prosperity. Making dairying profitable to the men and women dependent upon it is the business of this corporation.

In a recent descriptive article about Southern Dairies we note that 4,000 farms already are kept busy supplying its demands, and this number is increasing steadily. The condensing plant established at Montgomery alone will handle 25,000 gallons of milk a day at the start, and George C. Steel of Birmingham has previously been quoted as saying:

> Some of our capitalists think enough of this section to invest around a half million dollars in milk plants in the Black Belt. We often hear farmers complaining that the reason they are not dairying is on account of the lack of a market. Now, with a $200,000 plant going up in Montgomery and the remodeling of other plants, we soon will have around $1,000,000 invested in creameries and milk plants in middle Alabama.

Further along in the same article the question is asked, "And what do all the States in the Southern Dairies territory offer in the way of milch cows to provide for its daily demands?"

The answer is instructive and interesting. It is:

> Alabama answers with 516,000; Florida, 100,000; Georgia, 540,000; Kentucky, 536,000; Maryland, 206,000; North Carolina, 383,000; South Carolina, 240,000; Tennessee, 505,000; Virginia, 435,000, and West Virginia 224,000—total 3,685,000 cows. Under the stimulus of demand from Southern Dairies, through a campaign of education and through establishment of a steady all-year market, the farmers of the section are expected to increase this number by a tremendous percentage. The Southern Dairies' dairy and ice cream industry needs the farmers' raw material and will pay him well for it; the 22,000,000 people of the Southeast, and more, demand the Southern Dairies' products and will pay well for them.
>
> Helpful, liberal and even generous to the farmer, however, Southern Dairies insists on one contribution from his end—the milk and cream he supplies must be healthful, clean and pure and produced under sanitary conditions.

In selecting the South for its field of operations, Southern Dairies says that it was guided by three considerations, as follows:

"1. The South offers the best field in the country for uninterrupted, all-year production of milk and cream of the very highest quality, under the best possible conditions.

"2. The South offers at present an eminently appreciative field for ice cream and dairy products, and for the future the most promising field for a tremendous and ever-growing market.

"3. The Southern Dairies demand for milk and cream will stimulate dairy farming industry in the South, and will help to develop other industries which inevitably follow in the wake of every great dairy enterprise."

Roads and modern types of vehicles make such an enterprise as this feasible. In the Black Belt cooling stations in the rural sections will be erected. The milk will be promptly assembled and rushed to the central plant. Motorcars make this possible.

CO-OPERATIVE COTTON MARKETING IS ESTABLISHED

Four years ago when the movement was under way for organizing the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association, to merchandise cotton in an orderly way just as successful manufacturers merchandise their products, there was doubt regarding the success of the movement. At first it was not thought that farmers would sign a long-time contract, binding themselves to sell their cotton this way. This opinion soon proved to be a mistake because approximately a quarter of a million cotton growers of the South signed during these charter membership campaigns; and, of this number, about 25,000 are in Alabama.

Advertiser 4-1-26 Montgomery Ala

After the contract had been signed, there was further doubt regarding the feasibility of the plan. While the principles of co-operative marketing had been applied very successfully to oranges, raisins, and other products of the Pacific coast, it was claimed that these principles would not work when applied to cotton.

But time and experience have proven that it works just as well, or better, with cotton than with many other farm products. Cotton is a non-perishable product, put up in standard units and has a standard value on the markets of the world. It is an established product for warehousing, for loan, for transportation, and for commerce. Hence, it lends itself to orderly marketing.

The co-operative movement has grown steadily throughout the South. The more the farmers know about it the more they like it. This was demonstrated at the recent state-wide meeting in Montgomery when 700 growers from 60 of the 67 counties of Alabama re-affirmed their confidence in, and appreciation of, co-operative marketing of cotton and rededicated themselves to the task of expanding the movement and enlarging its usefulness.

During these four years members of the Farm Bureau Cotton Association have handled less than ten per cent of each crop, yet this small minority has been the most dominant group in the cotton business. As a result of their work country damage which formerly cost the South millions of dollars annually, is almost a thing of the past. Ten years ago it was a common thing to see bales of cotton lying around farm buildings and under trees unprotected for weeks and months. Now this is an unusual occurrence even when we have a bumper crop as was made last year.

A big improvement in warehousing has been made, and with this improvement has come lower insurance rates. With better warehousing and greater stability, interest rates have been lowered. Bankers appreciate an opportunity to lend money this way because of the safety. Waste has been eliminated all along the line.

Furthermore, important freight adjustments have been made. Officials of the Farm Bureau found that the freight rate from several points in Alabama to North and South Carolina mills was lower than the rates from these points to mills in Alabama. With a big organization behind them, these officials took the matter up in the proper way and got it adjusted; and, in so doing, they effected a big saving for Alabama. It was the first time Alabama farmers requested a lower freight rate on cotton. Before co-operative marketing they had been paying it in the form of a lower price, but were unaware of it.

But back of all of these achievements is the fundamental fact that co-operative marketing of farm products is right in principle and sound in practice. Wherever it has been given a fair trial, prosperity and progressing farm people are found. This is sufficient reason for it.

With their first five-year contract to expire this year, a movement is now under way in Alabama to sign a new seven-year contract. In a few weeks farmers representing an annual production of 15,000 bales have signed. Many of them say that they are ready to sign for life.

Themembership is going forward with a view to bringing into co-operative marketing not ten per cent but at least 25 per nt of each crop.

BENEFITS FROM FRIENDS

The Tennessee Coal and Iron company, one of the largest industrial corporations operating in the State, has inaugurated a policy which, if followed by the other industrial corporations, will solve the agricultural difficulties of the Black Belt. Prompted by the purpose of favoring the counties of the Black Belt of Alabama, the Tennessee Coal and Iron company is buying all its hay and butter from Montgomery and other Black Belt counties. While the policy is not yet in full operation, the company is taking 240 tons of hay from Montgomery county and practically all the surplus butter produced in the county. As a result, Montgomery county does not have to wait for the development of the dairy trade from Florida to build up its dairy interest.

Advertiser Montgomery Ala

This is the first time in the history of Alabama that one section of the State in a large systematic way has set about trying to build up another section. If the other corporations of Birmingham should buy all the butter and hay they need from Middle Alabama, the ravages of the boll weevil would be forgotten. Dairying is comparatively a new industry, and has never been completely set on its feet. It will be firmly established if at this juncture the dairy farmer knows that there is a ready and certain market for his products. These industrial companies could use all the butter and all the hay produced in Alabama, and the thousands of acres of idle and disused land could be put to blooming.

This, as we see it, is one of the most important industrial developments which has taken place in Alabama in several years, for it has been proved that it is no trouble to raise hay in the prairies, and that our farmers are demonstrating that they can produce butter as cheaply as any place in the world. Diversification in Alabama partly failed because of the lack of a market. The farmer whose experience with diversification was unfortunate was accustomed to say, "We can raise the stuff all right, but we can't sell it." This new policy of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company is an answer to that just complaint. As for hay, its possibilities are almost unlimited. In patronizing the farmers of the Black Belt in a wholesale way, President George Gordon Crawford of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, broad business man that he is, recognizes the obligation under which the Birmingham district is to the Black Belt. The district must operate under the laws passed and executed by members of the legislature and state officials, largely elected by the Black Belt. The tone of political thought of the Black Belt is sound and constructive. It believes in living and let live. It believes in building up the greatness of all the State, and that no benefit can be attained by class hatred and blind war on prosperous corporations; so we see established a policy of mutual aid such as the State has never seen before. The one great need of the Black Belt at the present time is to find a ready market for its agricultural products, and this is promised if the big corporations of the Birmingham district will buy such products as they need from the Black Belt counties.

On the other hand, farmers of the Black Belt should be fair in prices and correct in shipments for this policy will not continue long if the corporations can buy butter in large quantities and hay in large quantities at cheaper prices than are offered in Alabama. But for the present a most encouraging promise is held out to the entire Black Belt. The important feature of that promise is that it probably means the complete establishment of the dairying industry in the rich grass-growing counties of Alabama.

GOVERNORS ASKED TO ATTEND MEET

Brandon Invites Southern Executives to City For Electrical Conference

Governors of eleven southern states have been extended a personal invitation by Governor W. W. Brandon to attend the southwide conference on relation of electricity to agriculture to be held in Montgomery, April 6-8. Governor Brandon's letter of invitation to the governors of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee was in part:

"The national, Virginia and Alabama committees on the 'Relation of Electricity to Agriculture' have called a southwide meeting to be held in Montgomery on April 6, 7 and 8, the purpose of which is to discuss the problems and possibilities of extending electric service to the rural sections of the southland. This meeting promises a representative attendance and splendid results.

"I have the privilege of extending to you a personal invitation to attend, believing your presence would lend encouragement to this important movement.

"Should it be within your province to accept it would afford me pleasure to see the committee and have them arrange for your comfort and enjoyment while in our city and state. Please let me hear from you at once that I may make proper reservations for you."

FARMERS REAFFIRM FAITH IN MUTUAL MARKETING PLAN

Over 700 Alabama Cotton Growers and Agricultural Leaders Renew Pledges to Back Farm Bureau

SAPIRO CONTRASTS OLD CONDITIONS WITH PRESENT

Georgia Banker and Association Head Also Speak; Resolutions Pledge Expansion

Coming to Montgomery from every section and 60 of 67 counties of Alabama, 700 cotton growers and agricultural leaders in mass meeting at the city auditorium Tuesday afternoon reaffirmed their confidence and belief in the merits of co-operative marketing of cotton and repledged themselves to continue on the farm bureau plan until this plan of marketing farm products becomes universal in Alabama.

The meeting was for one afternoon only and was referred to by each speaker as "the most important in the history of Alabama agriculture." The objects were to review the achievements of cooperative marketing of cotton during the last four years, get a bigger vision of its meaning and make plans for the future.

The five-year contract under which the farm bureau cotton association is now operating became effective with the 1922 crop and will expire this year. In order to make this plan of marketing permanent a seven-year contract has been adopted; and before and during the meeting old members, representing an annual production of more than 10,000 bales had signed the new contract. In expressing their opinions of it farmers in the meeting indicated that they expected to sign a contract for life when the new seven-year contract expires.

Striven 60 Years

In calling the meeting to order, Edward A. O'Neal, president, who presided, said that "for sixty years the cotton growers of the south have striven for an opportunity and a way to handle their own business and work out the success of their own product but that such was not possible before the days of cooperative marketing as it is now being done in all cotton producing states." He referred to cotton growers as "crusaders of the south's white gold: who of all the people having anything to do directly with cotton are the only ones who have failed to make money on it."

C. O. Moser, general manager, American Cotton Growers exchange, Memphis, told the Alabama farmers that 300,000 cotton growers in twelve states are members of these cooperative marketing associations. They are federated into the American Cotton Growers exchange, which is now either the largest or the second largest cotton marketing association in the world, with sales connections in every important cotton consuming center. He said that these associations borrowed $87,000,000 to handle the 1925 crop, and that they could have borrowed ten times as much money if they had needed it.

Twenty-Five Per Cent Waste

Mr. Moser referred to a statement made by Herbert Hoover to the effect that 25 per cent of the value of cotton when handled under the old system is wasted. He referred also to a report of an English commission, verifying Mr. Hoover's statement.

For nearly two hours, the large audience listened with breathless silence to a stirring address by Aaron Sapiro of California and Chicago, famous attorney and marketing expert. The chairman requested Professor L. N. Duncan, of Auburn, to introduce Mr Sapiro, and, in doing so, Professor Duncan reasserted his views on cooperative marketing. He gave his unqualified endorsement and said: "If we are to save agriculture and preserve the great and indispensable rural life from decay the time has come when the producing classes must assert, not only their independence but their supremacy."

Introducing his address, Mr. Sapiro mentioned that he made his first speech on cotton in the Montgomery auditorium in 1920 at a south-wide meeting of cotton growers who assembled in solemn protest against ruinous prices which then prevailed. On that occasion he presented the marketing plan which has since become south-wide, and is now the most influential factor in the cotton business

South to Front

The speaker said that six years ago he had to depend upon California for most of his information on cooperative marketing but that now he tells Californians about what the southern farmers are doing. He referred to the cotton growers of the south, the burley tobacco growers of Kentucky, Virginia and the Carolinas, and the wheat growers of Canada, as the three biggest examples of cooperative marketing.

"We have," said Mr. Sapiro, "a real problem before us. We have come here today to decide whether we shall go forward on our present plan or go back to the old condition which I do not want to describe. We must decide today whether we as farmers will go forward and work out our own prosperity and independence or whether we shall sink to dependence and rural decay

"Wherever in this country or abroad farmers have adopted cooperation as their way of doing business we find good farms, good homes and a cultured, prosperous and happy rural people. Where cooperation does not exist we find just the opposite."

Mr. Sapiro said that the chief advocate of cooperative marketing in the United States is President Coolidge. He named Secretary Jardine of the department of agriculture: Secretary Hoover of the department of commerce and Secretary Mellon of the treasury department as three other big national figures who are warm supporters of this plan.

Appeals For Self Aid.

He said also that this view is held by all other important leaders in Washington as well as in the states.

The speaker concluded his address with a brilliant appeal to farmers to work out their own independence and prosperity on the self-help plan without leaning upon the government. In a touching way he referred to the rural culture of the old south, declaring that it was one of the greatest cultures ever known but that it has passed away.

Eugene Black, president of the Atlanta Trust company, Atlanta, Georgia, was another speaker. He made an eloquent and convincing appeal for bankers and all others to cooperate with the farmers in promoting and expanding the work which the farmers' present had gathered to study and to make plans to expand.

John S. Kernachan, president of the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton association and J. E. Conwell, president of the Georgia Cooperative association, each made short talks. Mr. Conwell brought a challenge from 45,000 Georgia cotton growers to the farmers of Alabama telling them that Georgia wants to know what Alabama is going to do. Those present gave him the answer by signing the new 7-year contract.

Resolution Proposed.

On motion of M. C. Moelette, a big cotton grower of Dallas county, seconded by Gilbert White, another grower of Limestone, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"Whereas, we are now in the fourth year of marketing cotton cooperatively in Alabama on the farm bureau plan, and

"Whereas, our present contract expires with the 1926 crop, and

"Whereas, this plan has proven advantageous and successful beyond question, bringing about important and far-reaching changes in every phase of cotton marketing;

"Therefore, be it resolved:

"First, that we as members of the Alabama Farm Bureau federation and Cotton association from every section of the state in mass meeting assembled do rededicate ourselves to the task of continuing and expanding this method of marketing;

"Second, that we endorse our officials and congratulate them on the efficient service which they have rendered;

"Third, that we endorse the American Cotton Growers' exchange, which is performing efficiently a necessary part in the plan of southwide cooperative marketing of cotton;

"Fourth, that we thank our county agents and extension service workers of Auburn for the great assistance that they have rendered.

"Fifth, that we call on farmers who are not members to join with us in carrying on this work which we believe to be absolutely necessary for the future success of the southern farmers;

"Sixth, that we earnestly call upon bankers, merchants and all others to cooperate with us in this work."

The campaign to induce the farmers of this county to take advantage of cooperative marketing of their cotton was endorsed by the board of directors of the Montgomery County Farm bureau at their meeting Tuesday morning.

Prof. J. F. Dugger, of Auburn, delivered an address on the general farming conditions, and a talk on the cooperative method of marketing cotton was made by Mr. Mitchell, who is field service man for the Auburn federation.

Agriculture - 1926

American Cotton Association.

Improvement of

SOUTHWIDE COTTON CONFERENCE CALLED TO MEET IN MEMPHIS FEBRUARY 3

Editor The Advertiser:

By action of the cotton conference held at Atlanta, Ga., January 5th, and participated in by representative delegates from eight of the leading cotton states, the president of the American Cotton association was authorized to issue a Southwide call for a convention of growers, bankers, merchants and all other interested agencies, to be held at Memphis, Tennessee, Wednesday, February 3rd. It was also advised that the governors of the cotton states be requested and urged to issue proclamations calling upon the farmers and their local allied business interests to assemble at their respective county seats on Monday, January 25th, then and there to discuss and act upon the general adoption of a farm program for 1926 that will insure a material increase in food and feed crops, thereby restricting the heavy cotton acreage planted in 1925.

The call for the Memphis convention on February 3rd has been issued and letters to the governors have been mailed out.

The active participating co-operation of the commissioners of agriculture, state bankers associations, cotton and supply merchants, farm bureau federation, directors of state extension service, co-operative cotton marketing associations, the general press and other interested agencies has been earnestly sought.

Reduced round-trip railway rates will be secured.

The effort will be made to bring together at Memphis one of the largest and most representative gatherings from the cotton growing industry ever held in the South to discuss and take definite action upon the serious economic problems at present affecting Southern agriculture.

The conference will assemble on the morning of February 3rd, in the auditorium of the Peabody hotel, at 10 o'clock.

J. S. WANNAMAKER.

President American Cotton Association, St. Matthews, S. C., January 9, 1926.

Agriculture - 1926

Arkansas.

Improvement of

WINS $150 PRIZE FOR MOST COTTON

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 6 (ANP)—James Ferguson, a share-cropper on the farm of John V. Naylor, has just been informed that he has won the $150 prize offered by the Forrest City Chamber of Commerce for the largest amount of lint cotton gathered from five acres in St. Francis county. Ferguson yield was 4,963 pounds.

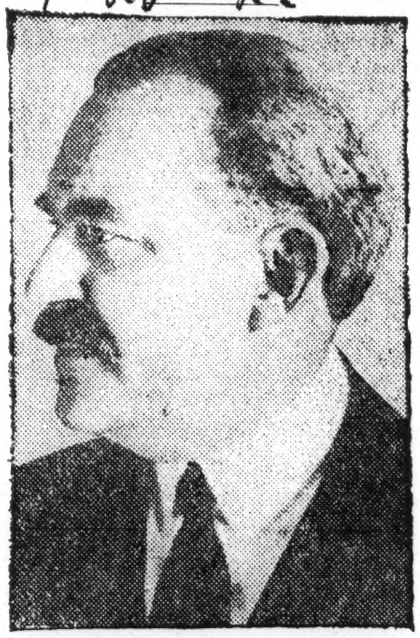
Agriculture - 1926

Improvement of

EGYPTIAN COTTON THEME OF DIRECTOR

Heard To Show Competition in Sudan at Commerce Farm Meet

Arizona



Dwight B. Heard, director, Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

A first-hand view of Egypt and the Sudan, as actual and potential competitors of the United States in the growing of cotton will be afforded the delegates attending the agricultural conference and the members of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce through Dwight B. Heard, of Phoenix, Arizona, a director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and a member of the executive committee of the World Cotton conference.

Mr. Heard, upon his own initiative, made during past winter a thorough investigation of cotton growing conditions in this region which is relied upon by Great Britain to provide a substantial part of the empire's raw cotton. His lecture, based upon these observations, will be illustrated with pictures showing working conditions and methods of growing, gathering and handling the crop.

Mr. Heard has taken a conspicuous part in the agricultural and financial development of the southwest. He is president of the Commonwealth Investment company and the Dwight B. Heard Investment company of Phoenix, and a director of the Pacific Coast Joint Stock Land Bank of Los Angeles and other organizations.

He has also been president of the Pima Cotton Growers, the American Live Stock association and a director of the Arizona Grain Growers' association.

Agriculture – 1926

California

Improvement of.

California's Imperial Valley, going in for cotton but a few years ago, last year harvested 130,000 bales. The papers say the value of this crop is $16,500,000, "equalling the raisin and prune crop and nearing the records made by citrus fruits and grapes." California is now planting 150,000 acres to cotton.

Agriculture – 1926 – Improvement of.

Georgia.

THE 1927 FARM PROGRAM.

Time is here for planning the 1927 farm program. It is of the utmost importance that not only community farmers, but bankers, merchants and business interests generally, unite in a cooperative spirit that no mistakes, or certainly as few mistakes as possible, be made in preparing these programs.

They will differ in sections necessarily. But in one particular there should be entire uniformity—and that is the provision, first of all, for growing all—not part—of the food and feed required for home consumption from harvest to harvest.

This is as imperative in any schedule of "balancing" on a farm, be it small or large, owned or rented, as it is imperative to make a farm pay at least running expenses if the sheriff is to be kept from the gate. Every farmer is entitled to a profit on his investment and to proper pay for his labors. In nine instances out of ten it is his own fault if he doesn't get both.

As to a balanced program for 1927, especially in the southeastern states, an editorial from the Country Gentleman, republished in part on this page, should serve a good purpose. This is one of the highest class farm magazines in the world, and has been a consistent friend of Georgia. The associate editor, Mr. Taylor, has made several trips through the state, and Georgia's marked progress in getting away from the "misery crop," as the Country Gentleman calls cotton, has been commended by him numbers of times.

In the editorial in question it is pointed out that while the 1927 gross cotton acreage will probably be cut, "from dire necessity," the southwest may be expected to continue to add to its cotton acreage each year, as it has been doing, certainly after 1927, should reduced acreage that year restore market normalcy. It emphasizes in the connection the overwhelming importance of turning farm production in this section to other than cotton money crops, providing first for the food and feed crops. It points out the many opportunities in the southeast, not enjoyed in other sections, for a farm schedule that will either eliminate cotton altogether or make it a surplus.

This is true, and there isn't a farmer in the southeast who doesn't know it. As much progress as Georgia has made in crop balancing, with marked increases in the production of grains, hay and meat, the fact remains that Georgia must buy largely of all of these commodities from other states to meet her own consumption demands. In other words, the proceeds from cotton, whether the market is high or low, must largely go out of Georgia to pay for the very commodities that we can grow just as well and just as profitably in Georgia. The false economy in such a course is as plain as a potleg.

Then what? Grow what we are now buying. Then the proceeds from cotton, or fruits, or whatever may be accepted as money crops, will stay in the state and represent profits to producers. Such proceeds, thereby, will become actual and not fictitious accretions to our state wealth.

These are matters for the business men to consider. They demand cooperation. With increased production in other-than-cotton cash crops there must be set up increased marketing facilities.

The Country Gentleman is a strong advocate of the system of cooperative marketing. There can be no challenging of the soundness of the principle. Their success depends, of course, upon management, but vitally—vitally, we say—upon the attitude of the producers. The peach-growing industry in Georgia has developed that fact. No cooperative marketing movement can serve to its best advantage unless a large percentage of the growers of the commodity, whether peaches or cotton, enter into the movement so that its usefulness cannot be destroyed by the larger element on the outside.

The editorial from the Country Gentleman deserves to be widely read—and heeded. To plan the next farm program wisely is the duty of all concerned interests.

CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH.

A Statement by the President of the Central of Georgia Railway.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Authentic figures about agricultural conditions in Georgia contradict the assertion that "the blight of the single crop habit is driving the Southern independent farmer east of the Mississippi from the soil," or that the small farm cottage, like the fine old mansion of ante-bellum days, is being taken over as a home by the buzzards and the crows." As a matter of fact Georgia, which is a typical Southern State, will this year cultivate and harvest crops from approximately 18,000,000 acres of land.

The cotton crop will yield about $90,000,000, plus the value of the seed, $15,000,000. The State will also harvest crops of corn, hay, peanuts, sweet potatoes, syrup, apples, pears, wheat, oats and pecans in 1926, all of which show a decided increase over 1925. Georgia has also raised one of the best tobacco crops in its history this year, along with a phenomenal production of peaches, watermelons and truck. The aggregate value of the State's farm crops for 1926 will be in the neighborhood of $250,000,000.

By this remarkable program of diversification, somewhere around $35,000,000 of increased wealth has been added to the revenues of the people of the State. The income derived from live stock enterprises will approach $70,000,000, and to this must be added about $30,000,000 derived from the sale of eggs and poultry products.

There are 250,000 farmers operating in the State of Georgia. They will derive from the soil an income of $400,000,000, that is to say, they will approximate $1,600 per farm holding. Or, putting it another way, the State of Georgia is producing $3 worth of diversified products for each dollar's worth of cotton sold.

In the light of the above figures, compiled by Dr. A. M. Soule, President of the State College of Agriculture, there seems to be no justification for referring to Georgia as in the bondage of the single crop habit.

The Central of Georgia Railway operates in the States of Georgia and Alabama. In the past ten years its tonnage of agricultural products has increased. At the same time a larger increase has taken place in the products of forests and in manufactured goods. These figures show that, while retaining its agricultural character, the Southeast is rapidly becoming an industrial section, producing and consuming a great variety of manufactured goods. Agriculture is more than holding its own, while new factories and manufacturing plants are constantly being built.

If there has been any emigration from the South it has been of the negro laborer to the industrial cities of the North and Middle West. The population of Georgia is now 59 per cent. white, 41 per cent. colored, as against 54 per cent. white and 46 per cent. colored a few years ago.

The general economic condition in the Southeast is governed by the same factors which control the national situation. Conditions in this territory are not essentially different from those in other sections.

Instead of abandoned farms and deserted homes, there has been a decided improvement in rural living conditions, as can easily be ascertained by any intelligent observer.

J. J. PELLEY.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 17, 1926.

Agriculture-1926

Georgia.

Improvement of

Coachman Makes Report, Negro Boys Farm Work

AMERICUS, GA. Times Recorder.

JAN 2 1926

The All Day Class in Agriculture at the Shipp and Nunn colored schools produced 28 bales of cotton at a profit of $2,583.39 for the past season. The part time class of the same schools produced 12 bales at a profit of $1,096.56.

The above date was furnished by J. A. Coachman, teacher of vocational agriculture in the colored schools, in his annual report just made public.

Coachman's reports in part is as follows: "By referring to the reports of 1923 and 1924 it will be seen that the production by vocational boys has been doubled each year and more, also the enrollment has more than doubled. In 1924 we had 9 boys to complete and report with 9 others who completed their projects but failed to report in time for the annual report.

The 23 who did report produced and gathered 28 bales of cotton.

The part time boys, those that have been forced out of school to work on the farm, though returned at convenient intervals have taken instruction in agriculture and carried out project work. They report 12 bales of cotton produced and gathered. All have signed up for the classes in 1926.

The evening class or the adult farmers have shown a steady improvement in farming since they began their studies. They are diversifying their crops, using better farm tools and better methods. They are also producing more for home consumption, have reduced cotton acreage and making as much cotton and much more money than ever before."

The table accompanying the report shows that three farms had 160 acres in cotton in 1923 and produced 1[illegible] bales of cotton. In 1925 the same farmers had 79 acres planted in cotton and produced 40 bales.

The report of the instructor has already been forwarded to the State Vocational Board at Atlanta.

SWIFT IS PAYING MILLION MONTH IN SOUTH GA.

Special to The Georgian.

MOULTRIE, Ga., Jan. 19.—The Moultrie plant of Swift & Company is paying out nearly a million dollars a month to the live stock growers of South Georgia, it is learned from the buyers on the stock yards here. During the six-day period ending Monday night checks totaling a little more than $200,000 were distributed among hog and cattle growers. About 90 per cent of this sum went for hogs, brought in in wagons, trucks or for porkers shipped in from a radius of not more than 150 miles. From the standpoint of money paid to growers it was the biggest six-day period the local packing house has ever had.

Colquitt County farmers are getting their share of the big sums going to hog raisers, as they have been selling from three to six thousand dollars' worth of porkers every day for the past six or eight weeks. The prices of No. 1 hogs, or heavy packers as they are known to the trade, are above 10 cents a pound and the growers are highly pleased over the returns. Many farmers assert they are finding their hog crop to be the most profitable one they have produced.

The selling season is expected to stay at a high point for several weeks. Agriculturists here early last year declared that the prospect for a high market in the fall and winter of 1925-1926 would result in new interest in hog raising, but even these admit that more former growers went back into the business than they had any idea would take such a step. The outlook for the next fall and winter is bright, leading live stock men here insist, and they believe that South Georgia will grow its biggest hog crop this year.

Cotton Growers of Georgia Sign 7-Year Cooperative Marketing Agreement Here

600 Planters Attend Session of State Association Here; Growing Success Forecast.

More than 600 prominent cotton growers coming from virtually every county in Georgia met Tuesday in Wesley Memorial church auditorium and entered into a seven-year agreement to market their cotton through the Georgia Cotton Growers Cooperative association. In speeches delivered at the session, members predicted successful consummation of this movement, not only in Georgia, but throughout the entire south.

Written pledges of 1,200 farmers were reported at the meeting, which is the first meeting marking the new phase of the work of the cooperative association. Bankers and business men joined with cotton producers in pledging their complete cooperation to the movement during the seven-year period. Signatures to pledges made Tuesday represent approximately 23,000 bales, and this is but the beginning of the work, according to speakers.

J. E. Conwell, president of the association, presided and declared that the amount of cotton handled through the association increased from 55,000 bales of cotton pledged in 1922 to 115,000 bales handled last year. Andrew J. Fleming, official of the association, took charge of an "open meeting" held Tuesday afternoon, at which more than a score of prominent farmers told of success of the movement in their respective localities and predicted greater success in the coming seven-year period.

Moser Is Speaker.

C. O. Moser, of Memphis, head of the American Cotton Growers' exchange, declared that the result of the cooperative movement has been phenominal. He said in a few years the national association has enrolled more than 300,000 members and now handles more than 1,250,000 bales of cotton annually.

"No one can say in definite figures what effect this movement has had upon the price of cotton," he said. "It is interesting to note, however, the credit which even those who are engaged in speculative handling of cotton attribute to the stabilizing influence of the movement."

Mr. Moser said the task of organizing has just begun.

"It could not be expected that a task so huge, involving an industry so complicated and so entrenched, could be perfectly organized in so short a space of time," he said. "We must widen our perspective; comprehend the cotton industry as a whole; recognize our place in the commerce of the world, and contribute our portion to the adjustment of the industry in such a way as to make possible the same being placed on a permanent basis of profit."

Black Approves Movement.

Eugene R. Black, president of the Atlanta Trust company, delivered an inspirational address at the morning session and gave his hearty approval of the cooperative movement. Mr. Black said the best business interests of Georgia and Atlanta are squarely behind this movement, and he said it means as much to the future of the state as any movement ever started. Mr. Black personally gave his pledge to market 1,100 bales of cotton through the cooperative association.

The cooperative movement is a "life-saver" to agricultural interests of the state, according to Dr. A. M. Soule, head of the State College of Agriculture.

"Your cotton land made $36.36 an acre last year at a cost of $39.95," Dr. Soule said. "This situation can not endure but you have the remedy here in your hands."

Farmers can accomplish what they desire only through cooperation, Dr. Soule said.

"Is it right for you farmers to work for 80 cents a day when the rest of society demands $1 to $1.25 an hour?" he asked. "Your problem will be solved when you produce a better grade of cotton through education and plant-breeding and when you reduce your acreage 600,000 or 700,000 acres; when you produce cotton of fifteen-sixteenths to one-inch staple; when you educate your boys and girls, and when you provide for proper marketing."

[illegible] Ga. NEWS

OCT 7 1926

NEGRO FARMER IN LOWNDES MAKES RECORD

Valdosta, Ga., Oct. 6. — Turner Rountree, a negro farm tenant on the T. B. Converse farm near Valdosta has finished gathering his cotton crop this season, and established a record for himself as a farmer and for Lowndes county land productivity.

Rountree planted six and a half acres in cotton and he has gathered nine bales of cotton averaging 510 pounds to the bale.

Those conversant with cotton growing in Georgia are of the opinion that the product of this six and a half acres of land hangs up a new record for Georgia farm activity and Georgia land.

Electricity for Farmers Forecast in Development Plans Outlined to Kiwanis

Conversion of farming, through the agency of cheap, dependable water power, from a losing business to a profitable, attractive pursuit was forecast by H. M. Atkinson, chairman of the board of the Georgia Railway & Power company, in an address Tuesday before the Kiwanis club.

Speaking on "Extension of electric service in Georgia, including its use on the farm," Mr. Atkinson voiced conviction that "just as cheap hydro-electric power has been the agency for expansion of industry, the next step will be profitable farming made possible through the same source."

Mr. Atkinson also for the first time sketched the significance to Georgia of the merger between the Georgia Railway & Power company and the Southeastern Power & Light company. Such a partnership, he declared, through a grouping of the physical and financial resources of the companies, means:

1. That the combination will serve public interest by making a bigger and stronger public service agency than ever before, serving the whole state of Georgia, not only industrially, but agriculturally as well.

Makes Big Ventures Possible.

2. That the merger makes possible the taking of risks through pioneering work, such as farm electrification, on a scale no single company could afford to undertake.

3. That it dispels all fear of a power shortage and insures a continuous and dependable output of energy.

"The Georgia Railway & Power company will be a bigger and stronger agency in all details and the merger will result in serving the whole state of Georgia not only industrially but agriculturally as well," Mr. Atkinson said. "This combination serves the public interest. The Georgia Railway & Power company becomes one of a group of companies and is strengthened in physical and financial resources. Only with such grouping as this can we afford to take more risks and do more pioneering work, such as rural electrification, than any single company would venture upon.

"Coordination of physical resources,'" Mr. Atkinson continued, "insures a more dependable source of power than ever before."

Drouth Threat Gone.

He spoke briefly of the drouth of 1925, which was even worse than the great drouth of 1845. "This merger," he declared, "dispels fear of any future drouth. Shortage of power is a thing of the past."

Illustrative of the benefits of the power reserve made possible by the merger, Mr. Atkinson stated that, thanks to Muscle Shoals, the Georgia Railway & Power company was able to secure in the 1925 drouth a total of 121,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity from Alabama.

Mr. Atkinson declared that he consented to the merger upon receiving definite assurance that the Georgia Railway & Power company would continue as an independent operating unit having its own policies.

Electrification of farms he described as the great step to be taken by the Georgia Railway & Power company.

Expansion of Lines.

Mr. Atkinson told how the power company is continually extending its lines to new sections and of plans looking toward the electrification of rural communities.

"I desire to take part in making electric service universal throughout Georgia," he said, "and hope that soon it will be available for all farms in the state. Electricity on the farms will turn agriculture from a losing business to a profitable pursuit as it has done in industry. It will increase output. It will call for trained minds on the farm and will interest young men in staying in agriculture. It will mean decentralization of industries into small communities. There will be industries centered in the farmin gcommunities and farming and industry will advance side by side. Farming literally will be rescued by water power.

"The farmer now pays a high price for production and gets a low price for what he produces," Mr. Atkinson said. "We must apply electricity to the farms. This is vital to you members of the Kiwanis club, for farming is the fundamental basis for industry. This merger only means the carrying out of this program and making it possible."

SAVANNAH, GA.

NOV 6 1926

A Colored Farmer Finds the Way.

Albany Herald: A farmer in this section of Georgia can get along very well without planting a stalk of cotton. And it is a well known fact that many farmers are in the "no-cotton" class.

Not by any means do we advocate the abandonment of cotton as one of the important money crops of this section. As a matter of fact, the continued planting of cotton is of very great importance. It is as important an item in a balanced-farming program as any of the other things we grow in South Georgia.

But the possibilities of getting along without cotton have been repeatedly and strikingly demonstrated.

There is the case of a colored farmer whose place is about six miles north of Albany, in Lee county. His principal money crop this year was peanuts. The soil on the place he rented was suitable for that crop, and it did well. He made eight tons of number one Spanish peanuts, which are now bringing $105 a ton.

Eight hundred and forty dollars isn't bad for the principal money crop on a one-horse farm. The colored farmer has paid his rent and his other obligations, has money ahead for next year, and doesn't know whether he will plant any cotton in 1927 or not.

The strength of agricultural South Georgia, as we have stated repeatedly, is in the large number and great variety of the money crops it is possible to produce here.

SEP 27 1926

A Negro Farmer's Story.

Columbia State: Cherokee's first bale of cotton this season as last was produced by a negro farmer, W. R. Sarratt, and Ed H. DeCamp's Gaffney Ledger says that neither Sarratt's priority in marketing cotton nor his general prosperity is accidental. He is industrious, prudent, forehanded; he is a year-in-year-out soil-builder.

Sarratt was interviewed by The Ledger the other day: He lives on R. F. D. No 1 near Concord Baptist Church; is married; is the father of eleven children, all of whom are living except one; five of his children have married and set up for themselves; his wife is still living and helps him with his farm operations. He owns eighty-four acres of land, and has a home which cost him $6,000, all of which is paid for; his home is equipped with a Delco lighting system.

He paid $40 per acre for this land, which he purchased from the late William "Chris" Phillips. It was known as the Jim Allison place. It was "run down." By taking care of his terrace, deep plowing and rotation of crops, he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He has forty acres in cotton and notwithstanding the dry weather calculates to get from twenty-five to thirty bales of cotton.

Sarratt raises his own corn and wheat and oats and meat. He has bought no flour in four years and eats wheat bread all the time; he has bought no corn since before the World War. This year he was forced to buy some oats. He keeps one cow, two mules, a Fordson and a Ford touring car. He transacts his business through a Gaffney bank. He has had to borrow some money this year, but will be able to pay it back when it comes due, and hopes to have a surplus left to operate on next year. Some years ago Sarratt bought ninety-two acres from D. C. A. Jeffries. This he sold to Robert Manning at a profit.

Discerning eyes will find much to read between the lines of that record: Steadfastness, self-denial, a faculty for management, ability to look ahead far beyond immediacies.

—Columbia State.

OCT 7 1926

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Electricity for Farmers Forecast in Development Plans Outlined to Kiwanis

Conversion of farming, through the agency of cheap, dependable water power, from a losing business to a profitable, attractive one was forecast by H. M. Atkinson, chairman of the board of the Georgia Railway & Power company, in an address Tuesday before the Kiwanis club.

Speaking on "Extension of electric service in Georgia, including its use on the farm," Mr. Atkinson voiced conviction that "just as cheap hydro-electric power has been the agency for expansion of industry, the next step will be profitable farming made possible through the same source."

Mr. Atkinson also for the first time sketched the significance to Georgia of the merger between the Georgia Railway & Power company and the Southeastern Power & Light company. Such a partnership, he declared, through a grouping of the physical and financial resources of the companies, means:

1. That the combination will serve public interest by making a bigger and stronger public service agency than ever before, serving the whole state of Georgia, not only industrially, but agriculturally as well.

Makes Big Ventures Possible.

2. That the merger makes possible the taking of risks through pioneering work, such as farm electrification, on a scale no single company could afford to undertake.

3. That it dispels all fear of a power shortage and insures a continuous and dependable output of energy.

"The Georgia Railway & Power company will be a bigger and stronger agency in all details and the merger will result in serving the whole state of Georgia not only industrially but agriculturally as well," Mr. Atkinson said. "This combination serves the public interest. The Georgia Railway & Power company becomes one of a group of companies and is strengthened in physical and financial resources. Only with such grouping as this can we afford to take more risks and do more pioneering work, such as rural electrification, than any single company would venture upon.

"Coordination of physical resources,'" Mr. Atkinson continued, "insures a more dependable source of power than ever before."

Drouth Threat Gone.

He spoke briefly of the drouth of 1925, which was even worse than the great drouth of 1845. "This merger," he declared, "dispels fear of any future drouth. Shortage of power is a thing of the past."

Illustrative of the benefits of the power reserve made possible by the merger, Mr. Atkinson stated that, thanks to Muscle Shoals, the Georgia Railway & Power company was able to secure in the 1925 drouth a total of 121,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity from Alabama.

Mr. Atkinson declared that he consented to the merger upon receiving definite assurance that the Georgia Railway & Power company would continue as an independent operating unit having its own policies.

Electrification of farms he described as the great step to be taken by the Georgia Railway & Power company.

Expansion of Lines.

Mr. Atkinson told how the power company is continually extending its lines to new sections and of plans looking toward the electrification of rural communities.

"I desire to take part in making electric service universal throughout Georgia," he said, "and hope that soon it will be available for all farms in the state. Electricity on the farms will turn agriculture from a losing business to a profitable pursuit as it has done in industry. It will increase output. It will call for trained minds on the farm and will interest young men in staying in agriculture. It will mean decentralization of industries into small communities. There will be industries centered in the farmin gcommunities and farming and industry will advance side by side. Farming literally will be rescued by water power.

"The farmer now pays a high price for production and gets a low price for what he produces," Mr. Atkinson said. "We must apply electricity to the farms. This is vital to you members of the Kiwanis club, for farming is the fundamental basis for industry. This merger only means the carrying out of this program and making it possible."

SAVANNAH, GA.

NOV 6 1926

A Colored Farmer Finds the Way.

Albany Herald: A farmer in this section of Georgia can get along very well without planting a stalk of cotton. And it is a well known fact that many farmers are in the "no-cotton" class.

Not by any means do we advocate the abandonment of cotton as one of the important money crops of this section. As a matter of fact, the continued planting of cotton is of very great importance. It is as important an item in a balanced-farming program as any of the other things we grow in South Georgia.

But the possibilities of getting along without cotton have been repeatedly and strikingly demonstrated.

There is the case of a colored farmer whose place is about six miles north of Albany, in Lee county. His principal money crop this year was peanuts. The soil on the place he rented was suitable for that crop, and it did well. He made eight tons of number one Spanish peanuts, which are now bringing $105 a ton.

Eight hundred and forty dollars isn't bad for the principal money crop on a one-horse farm. The colored farmer has paid his rent and his other obligations, has money ahead for next year, and doesn't know whether he will plant any cotton in 1927 or not.

The strength of agricultural South Georgia, as we have stated repeatedly, is in the large number and great variety of the money crops it is possible to produce here.

SEP 27 1926

A Negro Farmer's Story.

Columbia State: Cherokee's first bale of cotton this season as last was produced by a negro farmer, W. R. Sarratt, and Ed H. DeCamp's Gaffney Ledger says that neither Sarratt's priority in marketing cotton nor his general prosperity is accidental. He is industrious, prudent, forehanded; he is a year-in-year-out soil-builder.

Sarratt was interviewed by The Ledger the other day: He lives on R. F. D. No 1 near Concord Baptist Church; is married; is the father of eleven children, all of whom are living except one; five of his children have married and set up for themselves; his wife is still living and helps him with his farm operations. He owns eighty-four acres of land, and has a home which cost him $6,000, all of which is paid for; his home is equipped with a Delco lighting system.

He paid $40 per acre for this land, which he purchased from the late William "Chris" Phillips. It was known as the Jim Allison place. It was "run down." By taking care of his terrace, deep plowing and rotation of crops, he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He has forty acres in cotton and notwithstanding the dry weather calculates to get from twenty-five to thirty bales of cotton.

Sarratt raises his own corn and wheat and oats and meat. He has bought no flour in four years and eats wheat bread all the time; he has bought no corn since before the World War. This year he was forced to buy some oats. He keeps one cow, two mules, a Fordson and a Ford touring car. He transacts his business through a Gaffney bank. He has had to borrow some money this year, but will be able to pay it back when it comes due, and hopes to have a surplus left to operate on next year. Some years ago Sarratt bought ninety-two acres from D. C. A. Jeffries. This he sold to Robert Manning at a profit.

Discerning eyes will find much to read between the lines of that record: Steadfastness, self-denial, a faculty for management, ability to look ahead far beyond immediacies.

—Columbia State.

OCT 7 192[illegible]

A NEGRO FARMER'S STORY.

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Agriculture - 1926

Florida.

Improvement of.

A REVOLUTIONIZING FARM PLAN TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE SOUTH.

A SOUTHERN state—Florida—has been selected by James C. Penney, founder of an organization now operating 687 stores, for an agricultural experiment which may help to solve the problem of agricultural prosperity for much of this country. Mr. Penney, whose extremely—indeed, thrillingly—interesting story of his life is published in this issue, began his life work at the munificent salary of $2.27 a month. He tells the story of how he advanced from one place to another, until he received a salary of $25 a month, and then $50, and then he opened a store which in its first year did $29,000 of business. Now the organization which he founded has 687 stores located through 44 states and last year (1925) did a business of $91,000,000. 4.22.26

The farm plan which he has worked out, which was explained in a recent issue of the Manufacturers Record, is worth a further description. Having purchased 120,000 acres of land in Florida, Mr. Penney is clearing this land and dividing it into small-sized farms. His method for settlement of this land is unique in the extreme, and yet it is so promising in its possibilities that it deserves the careful study of other business men and of great corporations, for we are at last coming to a nation-wide recognition of the fact that tenant farming in this country is growing too rapidly, that thousands of farmers are giving up the struggle under present farming conditions, and that something must be done to save the country by saving its agricultural interests and giving prosperity to the farmers of the land. Upon the independent farmer, rather than upon the tenant farmer rapidly trending toward the status of the peasant class of Europe, depends the future of this country.

That Mr. Penney, after a thorough investigation of the country, should have selected the South for his great experiment in dividing 120,000 acres into small farms, and on them placing farmers in such a way that their independence can be assured if they are men of the right character, should command the nation's attention. Possibly others may find it profitable to see in operations of this kind a broad field, not of philanthropy, although it is philanthropic to the extreme, but of economic opportunity to render an invaluable service to the nation by re-establishing the prosperity of agriculture and giving to men of small means the opportunity of becoming independent farmers.

TAMPA, FLA., TRIBUNE

APR 28 1926

CLASS IN SOCIOLOGY HEAR NEGROES TALK ON RACIAL QUESTION

GAINESVILLE, April 27.—(Tribune News Service.)—The advanced class in sociology of the University of Florida, met with a number of the negro leaders of the state in a friendly discussion of the race question.

The State Negro Agricultural agent gave a talk on the work being accomplished by negroes, especially in agriculture throughout the northern part of Florida. County Agent Fred Craft, of Alachua county, said the negroes are making great advancement in diversified farming in this county, and are ready to receive and follow improved methods.

Florida is the only state where co-operative marketing by negroes has been successful. Last year the negroes of Alachua county sold more than $5,000 worth of vegetables through their co-operative agency.

The class in sociology is studying all the different races in their relation to American society. As a practical lesson they are making a survey and study of housing and health conditions of the negroes here.

TALLAHASSEE FLA

APR 1 1926

see. in Leon Co. [illegible]
[illegible] and railroad

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TO BE TAUGHT

Forty four teachers of vocational agriculture will be employed in twenty nine counties of Florida during the term of 1926-27, according to a list made public here by E. W. Garris, state supervisor of vocational agriculture.

Four of the schools where vocational agriculture will be taught are negro institutions.

Following is the list, which includes the county, location of the school and the teacher.

Alachua county; Alachua, J. F. Williams; Alachua, negro, A. L. Mebane; Hawthorn, O. M. Edwards.

Calhoun county; Altha, Guy Cox.

Columbia county; Fort White, George Wakefield; Mason, G. R. Graham; King's Welcome, negro, A. W. Bowls.

Dade county; Lemon City, J. L. Butts and J. N. McArthur; Homestead, J. M. Garris.

Escambia county; Gonzales, H. S. Wilson.

Gadsden county; Greensboro, J. E. Moses; Mt. Pleasant, E. L. Matthews.

Glades county; Moore Haven, R. L. Cunningham.

Gilchrist county; Trenton, Harry E. Wiid.

Hardee; Wauchula, A. A. Mendosa.

Highlands; Sebring, C. W. Long.

Hillsboro; Plant City, A. J. Peacock and J. G. Smith.

Jackson; Graceville, R. L. Price; Malone, J. L. Sommins; Sneads, R. C. Carlisle.

Jefferson; Aucilla, Thomas A. Treadwell.

Lake; Eustis, V. W. Driggers; Montverde, B. K. Wheeler; Leesburg, negro, J. W. Johnson.

Levy; Chiefland, S. C. Means.

Madison; Madison, Mitchell Wilkins.

Marion; Summerfield, G. W. Dansby.

Okaloosa; Baker, W. H. Harrell; Laurel Hill, G. W. Pryor.

Orange; Taft, Horace Hull.

Osceola; St. Cloud, A. J. Gieger.

Palm Beach; Canal Point, H. L. Speer; Delray, negro, S. D. Spady.

Polk; Winter Haven, Alex R. Johnson.

Putnam; Cresent City, T. P. Winter.

St. Lucie; Fort Pierce, M. L. Cozine.

Santa Rosa; Allentown, E. M. Creel.

Seminole; Sanford, R. F. Sooper and W. R. Fort.

Suwannee; Live Oak, R. C. Dancy.

Volusia; Barberville, J. C. Brown.

Washington; Chipley, J. C. Halliburton.

TAMPA, FLA., TRIBUNE

AUG 27 1926

COLUMBIA'S NEGROES AIDING AGRICULTURE

LAKE CITY, Aug. 26.—(A.P.)—The negro element of Columbia county farmers is said to be contributing highly to the reputation of the county as an agricultural section, through the growth of tobacco during the last few years. The 1926 crop is said to be particularly fine and much energy has been devoted to raising this crop.

One negro farmer has already sold $1,200 worth of tobacco off of a 4-acre plot and has not finished yet. General information indicates that a large acreage will be devoted to the growth of tobacco during the next season.

Agriculture - 1930

Improvements

Kansas.

COLORED "WHEAT KING" IS SENSATION OF KANSAS

TOPEKA, Kans., Aug. 11.—A new colored mentor has risen in the Agricultural realm to take the place of Groves, the famous Negro "potato king" of Kansas, who died last year leaving an estate valued at nearly a million dollars.

Tom King who came to this vicinity several years ago as a common day laborer has created quite a sensation by his feat in wheat raising, which has earned him the name of the "Kansas wheat King." King has just completed the harvesting of 22,000 bushels of wheat from his 600 acre farm which it is estimated will yield him a return of $28,000. King bought a few acres of land a few years ago and continue to add to them as his income increased until he has built his farming business up to its present size. He is said to have a substantial banking account with local institution.

Negro Wheat King In Kansas Succeeds Late Potato King, Groves

Topeka, Kan.—Memories of Groves, the colored farmer who became noted as the "Kansas Potato King," are evoked when one reads of what has been accomplished by Tom King, another colored farmer, who, on his farm near Plains, has harvested a crop of 22,000 bushels of wheat from 600 acres, the crop being worth in money about $28,000.

In the front yard of his home there is a pile of 10,000 bushels of wheat.

Just a few years ago Tom King was a day laborer in the city, and became disgusted with the advancement he was making. He moved his family to the country and began farming with nothing but his brawn and a willingness to work. He began as a tenant farmer.

Today he has one of the biggest bank accounts in Plains, owns his 600 acres of farm land and drives a fine car.

RACE MAN IS HAILED AS WHEAT KING

HUTCHINSON, Kans., Aug. 26.—(By A. N. P.)—A few years ago "Tom" King, as he was then called, became thoroughly disgusted with life in the city as a day laborer, with nothing on his side of the books after the week's toil. He took his family and moved to a farm near Plains. He claims he had nothing but his willingness to work on. He rented the land and underwent all the trials of a tenant farmer. Today he has one of the biggest bank accounts in Plains, owns his place and drives a fine car.

In Southwest Kansas, King is hailed as a wheat baron, claiming to be the only colored wheat king of the southwest. He harvested a crop of 22,000 bushels of wheat from his 600 acres this year. Its worth is estimated at something like $28,000 today. In his front yard is piled up one heap containing almost 10,000 bushels.

Maryland.

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Improvement of.

$80 In Pigs Made $700 In Just Nine Months

There is money in ordinary pigs according to Victor Daniel, principal of Cardinal Gibbons Institute, Ridge, Md., who was in the city Wednesday enroute to Wilmington, Philadelphia and New York, where he will make addresses in behalf of his industrial school.

Victor Daniels

Mr. Daniels said he purchased n-i-n-e months ago two shoats for $15, two sows in letter for $25 and two older sows for $40. These were all blooded animals.

Since that time he has sold nine young pigs for $58 and has on hand 64 animals worth $728. In this number are 4 brood sows, 2 gilts 2 boars and 46 shoats.

Profits represented he said amout to $700. This does not include 400 pounds of pork slaughtered and used at the school.

Maryland imports a million dollars worth of pork from the West every year. Maryland farmers if they knew how to substitute blooded animals for scrub stock could easily supply all pork needs in the state and have a supply left for export purposes, he said.

Afro American Baltimore, Md.

Michigan.

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Improvement of

MICHIGAN WANTS COLORED FARMERS

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Lansing, Mich., Oct. 12.—In keeping with that part of the program dealing with the rehabilitation of Michigan farm lands, the Division of Negro Welfare and statistics of the state announces the wealth of opportunity afforded Negro farmers in locating in various agricultural sections of this state.

Reporter 10-16-26 Pittsburgh Pa.

The steady decrease in the number of operated farms and the continual stream of farm folks cityward, is having its effect in both avenues of life. Each fall find a greater number of vacant farm properties and a larger list of unemployed in the city. In the latter case, because of racial lines, the Negro suffers more severely than the white workman and it is the hope of the division to help the Negro who has had agricultural training in securing a fuller measure of independence by taking over one of the many attractive offers to be found.

It is pointed out that the fall of the year is the ideal time to consider these locations as that season of the year marks the movement from the farm, with many farmers eager to rent or sell their property after the crops have been gathered and disposed of. For the benefit of the tenant or purchaser, the winter months offer the opportunity of establishing and preparing for the spring sowing.

Although the division of Negro welfare and statistics is not a selling agent in any sense of the word, yet listings of available properties have been made for the sole purpose of being of service to the Negro group in this connection. It also serves as a guide or adviser to the prospective purchaser who may be unfamiliar with Michigan soil. The division is inviting the inquires of any persons who may be interested and letters directed to the department, addressed to Lansing, will receive immediate attention

Agriculture - 1926

Improvement of

General

TRADE & FINANCE

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Prophecy of an undreamed of development in rural electrification within the next five years, with the prediction that the electric light and power leaders of the nation would cope successfully with the problems attendant upon that development was made here today by Dr. E. A. White of Chicago. Dr. White is chairman of the national committee on the relation of electricity to agriculture of the national electric light association. He was speaking before the annual convention of the southeastern division of that organization, on the subject of "Rural Electrification."

Dr. White declared that the electric "virus" was catching and every line extended into rural districts gave the movement added momentum. Illustrating the growth that has marked the past year he cited the state of Alabama where he said the use of electricity has virtually doubled in twelve months. Figures he quoted showed that in 1924 Alabama had 678 rural electric light users, and that in 1925 that number was increased to 1,125. Stress was placed on the fact that the actual consumption of electricity per customer had increased from 34 kilowatt hours in 1924 to 57 kilowatt hours in 1925.

According to Dr. White, who did not attempt to discuss the engineering problems to be encountered in transmitting electricity throughout the sparsely settled sections of rural America, the leaders in the electric light and power industry are to be trusted with the task of supplying power without which agriculture "cannot keep pace with the other industries of the nation."

"Already," he said, "the united effort designed to determine how rural service may be developed on a sound basis is being pictured as one of the most constructive movements in the entire agricultural situation.

"You take infinite pains to insure a true perspective of a problem. Having acquired this, action follows quickly, logically, based on exhaustive engineering technique and sound economics. Among agricultural leaders you are acquiring a reputation for vision, fairness, and energetic action.

"Rural electrification is a major undertaking. It is different from any other class of business encountered in the utility field."—Durham Herald.

"RECORD" YEAR FOR COTTON.

Colonel H. G. Hester, secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, gives many interesting details of the 1925-26 cotton crop of the United States in his annual report, which comes to hand by the latest mail. It was a year of "records," both in production and consumption, though not by any means a prosperous one for the manufacturing industry in America, and a decidedly poor one in this country. The quality of the crop is described as still low middling, and Colonel Hester says it is four years since there was one so poor in grade. The value, including seed, was $1,796,824,062, which compared with $1,980,530,374 in 1924-25 and $1,895,143,040 in 1923-24.

It will be remembered that a fuss was made in the late months of 1925 about the large quantity of "unspinnable" cotton which had been produced, the suggestion being that much of it would be almost unsaleable and would have to be included in the present carry-over. Colonel Hester states now, however, that "many of the mills soon found the advantage of substituting low-grade cotton for the better grades they had been using, and they (the low grades) entered into consumption in unusually large quantities. This was more or less the case at home and abroad. The result was an unexpectedly large world's consumption—the largest on record. The actual growth was 17,435,000 bales, including linters, the commercial crop (the amount dealt with) 15,614,707 bales, the consumption 15,165,000, and the carry-over into the present season 5,362,000. The largest crop in the past was that of 1914-15. Colonel Hester estimated the output then at 17,004,000 bales, including linters, and the Bureau afterwards issued a statement giving the amount as 17,002,000, or 433,000 less than the growth in 1925-26.

July Foreign Trade.

The Board of Trade's full statistics of imports and exports last month bring out some facts which will astonish many people. The total of the imports, at £100,290,000, was large, but £4,148,000 of it was the value of foreign coal brought here, nearly every ton of it being sent because of the stoppage of the collieries here. If this item could have been saved the imports would have been £2,576,000 less than those in July, 1925. In the export figures, through the same cause, a decline of £4,457,000 in coal is shown, and the fall in manufactures is only £2,407,000. Manufactures, as we pointed out on Wednesday, were actually valued at £7,000,000 more than the June exports in the same category, which may be taken as prima-facie evidence that the effects of the coal stoppage were less disastrous than people have thought they were. Another remarkable fact is that, in bulk, the exports of cotton piece goods were larger than in January, April, May, or June. They were nothing like as large as the industry requires, but, having regard to the fact that mills could only run half-time as a maximum, owing to the coal shortage and to the dullness of trade, they are certainly surprising. A few industries even managed to make a better showing than in July, 1925, and July, 1924, the chief examples of these being vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft), with an increase of £693,000 on last year, the non-ferrous metal trades, with an increase of £272,000, and machinery makers, with an increase of £270,000.

Principal Exports.

The exports to Great Britain showed a decrease of about 259,000 bales and 151,000 less were sent to Germany, but these declines were offset by increases elsewhere, notably Japan and China, where there was an increase of 524,000. The principal export figures, with those for 1924-25, were as under:—

	1925-26. Bales.	1924-25. Bales.
Great Britain	2,285,585	2,544,298
France	916,412	900,839
Germany	1,734,198	1,884,960
Holland	123,122	148,046
Belgium	230,477	237,121
Russia	245,683	241,055
Spain	303,033	273,314
Italy	745,090	733,638
Japan and China	1,246,261	922,654
Canada	244,196	212,781
All countries	8,252,163	8,257,521

Referring to the competition of other countries in raising cotton, Colonel Hester quotes a report of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome dealing with investigations in 79 countries producing cotton. Competition with the United States so far, the report said, has not been seriously successful.

Increased Shipments of Cotton Goods to India.

Compared with last year, exports of cotton goods of all kinds showed a decline of £2,624,000, but, as cotton was decidedly cheaper, this was not all loss. The exports to India, which is Lancashire's greatest market, were, in bulk, about 50 per cent larger than last year, and 5,000,000 square yards larger than in 1924. As the exports for the coal stoppage period have a special interest at present, we have extracted them from the returns. The total shipments of piece goods to India in May were 129,981,200 square yards, as against 109,053,400 last year; in June 145,339,700 square yards, as against 94,329,800; and in July 160,387,200 square yards, as against 116,681,400. The total for the seven months of this year is 968,541,700 square yards, as against 885,890,100. Bombay shows a sharp decline, but Bengal's total has gone up from 464,852,200 to 609,439,500 square yards.

Tootal Broadhurst Lee.

The Tootal Broadhurst Lee Company, of Manchester, who combine cotton spinning, manufacturing, and warehousing, have not been able, in the circumstances of the year ended June last, to maintain their profit at the level of recent years, but they have done fairly well nevertheless. The ordinary dividend is to be 10 per cent for the fifth successive year, and a little over £20,200 is added to the balance forward, but, on the other hand, the general reserve gets nothing this year, and, as there is presumably no need to add anything to the special reserve of £61,331 for income tax, it too, is left as it was. The general reserve is now £250,000, while the ordinary shares total £800,000. The issued capital further includes £400,000 in 5 per cent preference and £34,459 in employees' shares. Below we compare three years' results:—

	1925-6. £	1924-5. £	1923-4. £
Net profit	103,040	132,622	130,724
Brought forward.	56,505	54,452	53,424
Available	159,545	187,074	184,148
Inc. tax reserve	—	20,000	30,000
General reserve	—	30,000	20,000
Pref. dividend	16,000	15,625	15,500
Ord. dividend	66,757	64,944	64,196
Do. per cent	10	10	10
Carried forward..	76,788	56,505	54,452

The net profit in 1920-21 was £160,790 and in 1922-23 £145,924. In September, 1918, and in August, 1919, £2 was added each time to the amount credited to the ordinary shares, and they then became fully paid. That was followed by the splitting of the shares into £1 issues. Two of each ten £1 shares were called postponed ordinary until conditions as to the reserves were met, but in 1920

they came into full ordinary rights. "Sundry creditors" appear in the balance-sheet at £332,828 and trade debtors at £827,047. Stocks, materials, and stores on the 30th June were valued at £680,886. The amount a year ago, including trade debtors' accounts, was £1,714,956. Investments are shown to be £145,477, as against £245,700 last year and £372,064 in 1924. Cash amounts to £298,106, as against £62,200.

J.P. Restaurants.

The J.P. Restaurants Company, London, suffered to some extent, in the year ended June, from the general strike last May and the coal stoppage which began at the same time and is not yet ended. The fall in the profit, however, is only a little over £600, and, in the circumstances, the directors think the amount is fairly satisfactory. An interim dividend of 6 per cent has been paid, and it is now proposed to make this up to 15 per cent—the rate paid for each of the last two years, but 3 per cent less than for 1920-21, 1921-22, and 1922-23. Below we show three years' results:—

	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.
	£	£	£
Profit	13,833	14,454	8,746
Brought forward	30,810	31,456	37,028
Available	44,643	45,910	45,774
Preference dividend	600	600	600
Ordinary dividend	13,500	13,500	13,500
Do per cent	15	15	15
Written off	—	1,000	218
Carried forward	30,543	30,810	31,456

For the three years to 1916-17 only interest charges were met, but the preference arrears were cleared off in the accounts for 1917-18 and the holders of the ordinary shares got 7½ per cent.

Wilson Brothers' Bobbin.

The report of this Garston and Cornholme company for the year ended July 15 shows a decline in the profit, presumably due to the depression in the cotton trade. It is proposed, however, to pay a dividend of 5 per cent, although that rate has not quite been earned. Below we give three years' figures, in each case after deducting, as the directors do, £12,000 for depreciation:—

	1925-26	1924-25	1923-24
	£	£	£
Net profit	18,725	33,702	20,999
Brought forward	4,227	3,725	5,226
Available	22,952	37,427	26,225
Debenture interest	5,400	5,400	5,400
To reserve	—	5,000	—
Dividend	14,250	22,800	17,100
Do. per cent	5	8	6
Carried forward	3,302	4,227	3,725

India and Japanese Cotton Goods.

The Bombay Millowners' Association has sent a statement of its grievance in regard to Japanese cotton goods to the Tariff Board, which has been appointed to consider whether the industry needs Protection, especially against Japan. The result of Japan's double-shift system, the Association says, is that, with less than 5,000,000 spindles, its mills produce over 2,000,000 bales of yarn per num, whereas India, with 8,330,000 spindles, can only produce 1,500,000 bales. Moreover, with only a little over 60,000 looms, Japan produces well over a thousand million yards of piece goods per annum, while India, with two and a half times as many looms, only produces 1,700,000,000 yards per year. While Japan has almost maintained her yarn export trade with China, India has almost entirely lost hers, and in piece-goods the position is much more unfavourable to India, the value of her piece-goods export trade to China being only about one-tenth of what it was, whereas Japan's trade has increased forty or fifty-fold. If the sterling exchange were made 1s. 4d. gold, and Japan's mills were made to work one shift, without permitting night work of women and children, then the Indian cotton industry would stand on its own legs, and would not require Protection.

Morris and Jones.

This Liverpool company of wholesale and manufacturing grocers has done better in the year ended June last than in 1924-25. The net profit then, after providing for depreciation, &c., was £37,778, but this included a final sum, the amount of which was not specified under a special agreement—apparently that with Harris (Calne) and the General Produce Company, from which there were also receipts in 1923-24. In 1925-26 the net profit was £38,011, and £5,000 more was available through the taxation reserve being in excess of requirements. With £9,722 brought forward, the disposable balance was brought up to £52,733, as against £44,784. It is proposed to pay 6 per cent on the ordinary shares, as in the last two years, add £10,000 to the reserve, which got nothing last year, and carry forward £7,333. The preference dividend, 7 per cent, takes £21,000 and the ordinary dividend £14,400. The reserve will now be £45,000; the issued capital is £300,000.

Agriculture-1926
6 Improvement of.

Surroundings Ideal For Negro Tenants on The Hood Plantation

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 2.—Coahoma is making adequate provisions for the education of its negro in every section of the county by the establishment of good schools with efficient teachers, according to George H. Oliver, principal of the colored schools of Clarksdale. "Every negro child has the advantage of the rudiments of a common school education with industrial instruction," Oliver said.

"With few exceptions there are as fine plantation owners in Coahoma County as one will find in any county of the south. Most of them are personally known to me as I have lived here among them the greater part of my life, having come here years ago from Georgia, where I was born.

"While all of the large planters are doing everything within their power to have the conditions, living, educational, moral and religious, improved upon their plantations, I find that the greatest improvements have been made on the Matagorda plantation, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Bell Hood, Jonestown, Miss., where provisions have been made for the 160 families on the tenants.

"From the last census taken I find that there are from 800 to 1,000 negroes living on the Matagorda plantation; there are 1,200 acres in a high state of cultivation; every tenant house has an orchard of 16 fruit trees, with one pecan tree, and besides each house has been screened and whitewashed.

"There is a community house which was built some three years ago with a seating capacity of 300. This is the community center for the negroes of the plantation, where they go for all recreational exercises, picture shows, radio, dances, demonstration work and other exercises which are wholesome and conducive to a healthy state of mind.

"Mrs. Hood gives lessons every month on Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock on hygiene, sanitation, care of babies, family cooking and sewing, assisted by the county home agent, Beatrice Childress, and sometime by the colored state agent in charge of the state work.

"I have known Mr. Hood the greater part of his life; I was living at Jonestown years ago when he was adopted by the late D. M. Russell and brought there to live with him. You will recall that Mr. Hood is the son of Gen. Hood, who fought Sherman at Atlanta. Quite a number of the old tenants who were living on the plantation when Mr. Hood came there as a boy are still there today. I find there is one family there now which has been there for 50 years; several families have been there 40 years, and quite a few have been there 30 years, thus attesting to the kind and gentle manner, fair dealing and consideration shown the tenants by the management of the plantation.

"For five consecutive years upon Christmas Eve day there has been a community Christmas tree given to the tenants as the gift of baby Hood. Every tenant upon the plantation is remembered upon this annual Christmas tree. I found some of the foremost tenants of the plantation, in the person of Rev. Moore, Henry Boyd and Bowen, assisting with the Christmas Eve day exercises, which were directly under the supervision of Prof. McMillan of the Jonestown School.

"By having a community center for all recreational exercises craps shooting and all other forms of gambling have been eradicated from the Matagorda plantation. In speaking to one of the oldest tenants on the plantation as to conditions under the new management, I was informed that bootlegging with all of its attendant evils had been banished from the place; this we find to be one of the good results of the recreation center, for which all members of our group should feel especially grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Hood for, if for nothing else.

"It is a well known fact that Mrs. Hood is one of the most outstanding white women of the south, having traveled extensively in Europe and other parts of the Old World as well as in her own country. She is the president of the Jonestown Woman's Club, life member of the Chautauqua Women's Club of New York, life member of the New York Bird and Tree Club, and was asked to serve the second time on the Council of Women's Club of Chautauqua by Mrs. Pennybacker. Mrs. Hood is also a member of the board of trustees of the Coahoma County Agricultural High School for the colored people of Coahoma County.

"Mr. and Mrs. Hood have set the pace for the plantation owners of the entire south. Let every owner of a large plantation do what they are doing and the labor question will be settled once for all. The settlements are made as the cotton is picked and ginned. No waiting until all crops are gathered before settlements are made."

A Colored Farmer

RANKIN is one of the old Mississippi counties. It also is one of the least "reconstructed," settled largely by old families who cling to tradition. It has produced Governors and Senators. This background makes an editorial appearing in this week's issue of the Brandon News, the county paper, all the more notable:

"In another column of this week's Brandon News will be found the story of Andrew Buckhalter, one of Rankin county's most respected negro citizens, also one of the county's best farmers.

"The story records the fact that Andrew raised 125 bales of cotton on 190 acres of land, and besides this he raised enough corn and feed stuff not only to supply the needs of his farm but also to sell a goodly amount.

"Last year Andrew raised 71 bales of cotton besides his feedstuff, and had a comparatively bad crop year.

"The story of the farming activities of this negro reads like a romance. Without an education, without the advantages that come to many, he goes ahead year after year accomplishing the seemingly impossible. When asked if he followed any set rules in crop culture his answer was that the only rule he followed was that of hard work and close application to the little details that go to make up farm life.

"As a result Andrew is out of debt, has money aplenty in the bank, and is looking forward to breaking all records next year. Here's luck to you Andrew. We hope you make a million."

Mississippi.

This was the leading editorial. The story was carried on the front page. We would like to see it reprinted in other Southern papers and in the North. The feeling and attitude expressed in this editorial is prevalent among the better class of Mississippians but needs to be cultivated. Mississippi—and other states—have other such colored farmers. They deserve recognition. Stories and editorials such as this, given when due, would do much to lighten the stigma fastened upon Mississippi by her lynching record. The story is really more common but does not receive as much attention.

AIDS NEGRO FARMERS.

Many Benefitted By Oktibbeha Educator of Own Race.

STARKVILLE, Miss., June 23.—Through the teachings of E. W. Hayes, agricultural trucker of the Oktibbeha Colored Training School, the negro farmers and dairymen are being taught the benefit to be derived in plot demonstrations and to also learn the possibilities of planting cover crops.

As an evidence of what can be accomplished in that direction advised a farmer named Burton to sow some oats last fall in October for grazing purposes. A sample of the oats seen Monday show that they have grown in proporition, and Hayes says that in the 10 acres sowed Burton will get 40 bushels to the acre.

Another plot was sowed last November to onions and cabbages. On April 7 of this year Early Head cabbages were placed on the market. On April 16 this same plot was planted in cotton as a second crop. So far it looks favorable and is in a fruiting stage.

Since his connection with the training school Hayes has been doing wonderful work among his people—the farmers and dairymen, and they are heeding his advice. He is organizing all the negro dairymen into a "Home Dairy Feed Association," the object being to encourage them to grow their own feed.

Hayes is a graduate in agriculture this year from the Alcorn A. and M. College. When it was necessary to ascertain the number of cows available for milking purposes desired by the Borden people two years ago, Hayes went over the county and secured several thousand negro dairymen's signatures.

Negro Farmer Has Never Bought Bushel of Corn

STARKVILLE, Miss., Sept. 10.—Oktibbeha County can boast of having a colored farmer who has been tilling the soil for a period of 36 years, and during that many years has never bought a bushel of corn. His name is William Ellis and operates a farm a short distance from the Mississippi A. and M. College.

Another outstanding feature connected with him is that he kills his own meat, sows enough wheat to make his own flour and lives at home.

Ellis is the first colored man that ever shipped a carload of hogs to the St. Louis market, and was the recipient of a blue ribbon for the best hog exhibited at the Jackson, Miss., state fair two or three years ago.

He operates a dairy with his children and patronizes the Borden condensery. Ellis is a splendid negro, and has the respect of both his own race and white people.

NEVER BOUGHT A BUSHEL OF CORN

Starkville, Miss., Sept. 25—(A. N. P.)—William Ellis, who operates a farm near this city, boasts of the fact that during his 36 years of farming he has never bought a bushel of corn. Ellis further makes practical the slogan "Feed Yourself" by raising all of the foodstuff for his family and in addition holds the record of being the first Negro farmer to ship a carload of hogs to the St. Louis market, and makes his own flour.

NEW YORK
Mail & Eve. Telegram

NOV 12 1926

Mississippi Negro Diets.

AFTER the World War Southern planters in the region of the Mississippi delta were obliged to pay their negro tenants better wages to keep down the rising tide of colored discontent. And in making a change for the better the dietaries of the tenants underwent an interesting change. Previous to that time a commissary issued certain amounts of food weekly, according to the size of each family—the larger part of this food consisting of salt pork, meal and molasses, with coffee, rice, sugar, soda, salt, lard, flour and baking powder in small quantities. These foods, with what the negro families could raise for themselves, formed the basis of their daily meals. If they had time to do extra work and get extra money for food they might enjoy extra luxuries. Now many of them are paid in money at the end of each month and can go shopping for food into stores where they may exchange their cash for any food they like. Others retained their commissaries and gave part of the salaries in cash for buying extra foods.

With this arrangement a new demand arose for meats, cheese, crackers, cake, candy, preserves and soft drinks. With their new purchasing ability the negroes expressed a desire for "something different." The only foods they did not demand were in the line of condiments, relishes, pickles, spices, tea and cocoa. They raise their own lettuce and eat it stewed. They boil and fry everything in animal fat. And now the negro cogitates long and earnestly over food purchases, for he is not dependent upon the limited stock of his employer's commissary and can buy what he likes from the grocers' shelves. Thus a slight alteration for the better has come into the dietary of a group of people sadly in need of a dietetic shaking up and a general food reform.

—Suzanne.

North Carolina.

Agriculture—1926
Improvement of.

FARM INCREASES AND DECREASES

HEALTHY FARM INCREASES

The table which appears elsewhere ranks the counties of North Carolina according to gains and losses in number of farms during the five-year period from January 1920 to January 1925. The parallel column shows the number of farms in each county in 1925.

Hoke with an increase of 43.5 percent in the number of farms ranks first in the state, while Craven with a loss of 18.1 percent comes last.

Johnston county with 7,515 farms ranks first in number, while Dare with only 79 farms has fewer than any other county in the state.

Seventy-eight counties had more farms in 1925 than they had in 1920, which is an excellent showing in view of the fact that the United States suffered a net loss of farms during this same period. Only 22 counties in North Carolina show decreases in farms, in none of which was the loss a very large one.

Makes Splendid Showing

Volume XII, number 2, of the News Letter carried a study on farm gains and losses by states, 1920-25, in which it was shown that North Carolina was surpassed by only two states in the number of new farms brought under cultivation during this period, and that in 1925 only one state in the Union, Texas, had more farms under cultivation. North Carolina's total was 283,495, which is 23,000 more farms than our nearest rival possesses, aside from Texas.

If growth in number of farms is any indication, the agricultural situation in North Carolina is far better than in any of our neighboring states. The increase in farms in Virginia was only about half the increase in North Carolina. The other states bordering on North Carolina suffered losses in farms. In South Carolina all the counties except five have fewer farms than they had in 1920, the net decreases for the state being 19,927. Georgia suffered the heaviest loss of any state, with 60 thousand fewer farms in 1925 than in 1920. Tennessee also suffered a slight decrease in farms. In percent of counties showing increases in farms North Carolina ranks near the top among the states of the Union, which means that the entire state is sharing whatever prosperity exists on the farms of the state.

Interesting Changes

The study brings out some rather interesting facts with regard to changed conditions that have taken place since 1920. During the decade from 1910 to 1920 the counties showing the largest increases in the number of farms were the twenty or so combination cotton and tobacco counties centering around Wilson, Wayne, and Johnston, resulting from high prices for cotton and tobacco during the War period. During the last five years this same group of counties made the poorest showing in farm increases of any large area in the state.

The western half of the state, whose counties with few exceptions lost farms between 1910 and 1920, shows up slightly better than the eastern half in farm increases for the period since 1920.

Mountain Counties

Perhaps the most outstanding fact is the change for the better in the mountain counties. From 1910 to 1920 all of the mountain counties except three lost farms. During the last five years all of the mountain counties except three have increased their farms, many of them ranking well up in the percent increase column.

During the decade preceding 1920 there were 38 counties in the state losing farms, against only 22 counties losing during the last five years. Of the 38 counties which lost farms during the census decade, only six continued to decrease following 1920. Sixteen counties which increased during the census decade show losses during the last five years. For the most part these are counties in which cotton or tobacco or both are important crops.

The Boll Weevil Counties

It is rather interesting to note that the counties which have suffered most from boll weevil ravages—Columbus, Bladen, Robeson, Scotland, Richmond, and Hoke—make the best showing in farm increases of any solid group of counties in the state. Trucking and diversified farming have made much headway in this area.

Aside from this group, the northeastern Tidewater region, the west central Piedmont counties, and the mountain region in general lead in new farms during the last five years. None of these groups ranked high in farm increases during the decade preceding 1920.

A Main Explanation

The nation over, the farm population is static or decreasing. The wholesome increase in farms in North Carolina since 1920, a period during which agriculture has not been very profitable, is to be attributed, we believe, more to the state-wide system of public highways and improved county roads than to any other factor. This is especially true in the remote regions of the state—the Tidewater counties and the mountain country. Improved roads and the motor car have done wonders in reducing the loneliness and monotony of country life, in enabling the farmer to get his produce to market, in shortening distances, in making possible the improvement of rural schools through consolidation, and in many other ways. The country regions of North Carolina, with our splendid highways and easy communication, are far more attractive residence and business areas than they were before the day of highways. The fact that every section of the state shows growth in farms is accounted for largely because every county in the state is sharing in the highway construction program.

To quote briefly from the Manufacturers Record, "Wherever good highways are constructed, prosperity and progress follow as surely as day follows night. Wherever intolerably bad roads exist, whether consisting of bottomless mud holes or equally bottomless sand piles, there stagnation takes place, along with gradual deterioration of the moral and educational condition of the people, and there poverty exists in direct contrast with the prosperity to be found where modern highways are built."—S. H. H., Jr.

PERCENT INCREASES AND DECREASES IN FARMS
In North Carolina by Counties, 1920-1925

The following table, based on the U. S. Census of Agriculture, ranks the counties of the state according to percent increases and decreases in the number of farms from 1920 to 1925. The accompanying column shows the number of farms in each county in 1925.

Hoke county ranks first with a gain in number of farms of 43.5 percent over the year 1920. Craven county ranks last with 18.1 percent fewer farms than she had five years ago.

During the five-year period 78 counties increased in the number of farms, while 22 counties suffered losses.

The state increase in number of farms was 13,729, or 5.1 percent, and only two states showed a larger numerical gain. With 283,495 farms North Carolina now ranks next to Texas in total number.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.
Department of Rural Social-Economics University of North Carolina

Rank	Counties	No. Farms 1925	Percent Increase 1920-25
1	Hoke	2,127	43.5
2	Nash	6,007	37.0
3	Richmond	2,384	32.6
4	Transylvania	1,023	28.0
5	Scotland	2,210	20.8
6	Chowan	1,261	18.1
7	Cherokee	2,227	17.1
8	Alamance	3,161	16.8
9	Jackson	2,162	16.7
10	Cleveland	4,670	16.3
11	Granville	4,065	16.0
12	Beaufort	3,711	14.9
13	Washington	1,273	14.7
14	New Hanover	368	13.9
15	Forsyth	3,239	13.7
16	Burke	2,474	12.8
17	Pasquotank	1,530	12.5
18	Bladen	2,749	12.3
19	Surry	4,563	12.2
20	Avery	1,472	11.9
21	Vance	2,263	11.1
22	Cabarrus	2,672	10.1
23	Caldwell	2,170	10.0
23	Yadkin	2,910	10.0
25	Martin	2,763	9.9
26	Montgomery	1,817	9.7
27	Columbus	3,924	9.6
28	Randolph	4,241	9.5
29	Carteret	934	8.9
30	Hyde	1,248	8.7
30	Lee	1,593	8.7
30	Lincoln	2,343	8.7
33	Northampton	3,793	8.4
33	Swain	1,370	8.4
35	Robeson	7,048	7.4
36	Camden	938	7.2
37	Pender	2,020	7.1
38	Johnston	7,515	7.0
39	Davidson	4,022	6.7
50	Tyrrell	675	5.0
52	Haywood	2,175	4.9
52	Pitt	6,228	4.9
52	Rockingham	3,846	4.9
55	Wilkes	5,208	4.8
56	Madison	3,072	4.7
57	Halifax	4,858	4.0
57	Wilson	4,616	4.0
59	Union	4,991	3.5
60	Bertie	3,444	3.1
60	Greene	2,825	3.1
62	Stokes	3,473	3.0
63	Edgecombe	3,953	2.9
63	Wake	6,604	2.9
65	Buncombe	3,798	2.6
65	Dare	79	2.6
67	Alleghany	1,438	2.5
68	Rowan	3,557	2.1
69	Perquimans	1,496	2.3
69	Sampson	5,906	2.3
71	Polk	1,225	2.1
72	Cumberland	3,151	1.6
73	Franklin	4,290	1.5
74	Guilford	4,021	1.1
75	Person	2,804	0.6
76	Iredell	4,135	0.5
76	Warren	3,180	0.5
78	Gates	1,584	0.0
			Decreases
79	Onslow	2,165	0.6
80	Wayne	4,995	0.7
81	Henderson	1,957	0.8
82	Stanly	2,485	1.3
83	Moore	2,135	1.9
84	Macon	1,865	3.1
85	Alexander	1,860	3.2
85	Rutherford	3,510	3.2
87	Anson	3,567	3.7
88	Durham	1,700	3.9
89	Brunswick	1,358	4.1

40	Gaston	2,493	6.6
41	Yancey	2,367	6.5
42	Clay	859	6.3
42	McDowell	1,526	6.3
44	Hertford	2,213	6.2
45	Lenoir	3,353	6.0
46	Catawba	3,086	5.8
47	Davie	1,869	5.7
48	Watauga	2,133	5.6
49	Mitchell	1,622	5.1
50	Ashe	3,576	5.0
89	Duplin	4,495	4.1
91	Orange	2,082	4.6
92	Harnett	3,219	4.7
93	Chatham	3,539	5.4
94	Mecklenburg	4,013	7.6
95	Jones	1,408	8.6
96	Pamlico	1,191	9.5
97	Caswell	2,274	11.1
98	Currituck	873	11.4
99	Graham	642	13.9
100	Craven	2,124	18.1

LARGE INCREASE IN FARM TENANTS

North Carolina is probably headed into farm tenantry more rapidly than any other state in the Union. Such is the conclusion one must draw from a close study of the 1925 farm census data which have recently been released. In 1920 there were 117,459 farms operated by tenants in North Carolina. In 1925 there were 131,867, or a five-year increase of 14,408 tenant farms. The five-year increase in all farms was 13,729, which means that the increase in the number of farms operated by tenants was larger than the net gain in all farms. Only two states in the Union experienced larger increases in farms during the last five years, and probably no state had anywhere like as large an increase in farms operated by tenants.

In 1920 the farms operated by tenants were 43.5 percent of all farms in the state. The farm tenant ratio in 1925 was 46.5 percent, a ratio increase of three percent in just five years. This is a significant gain considering the enormous number of farms in the state.

The table which appears elsewhere ranks the counties from low to high according to the percent of all farms operated by tenants. The parallel or second column shows the ratio increases and decreases in farms operated by tenants for the five-year period.

Edgecombe Leads

Dare county, an exceptionally unimportant county in agriculture, with only 7.6 percent of her farms operated by tenants, has the lowest farm tenant rate in the state. Edgecombe county has rapidly been heading into tenancy during recent years and now has the highest farm tenant ratio in the state. Of all farms in the county 83.3 percent are operated by tenants.

Forsyth county experienced the largest decrease in the ratio of all farms operated by tenants, dropping from 40.5 percent to 23.8 percent. Very likely this is accounted for by the presence of Winston-Salem which attracted the tenants off the farm into industry. Chowan, on the other hand, experienced the largest ratio increase in tenant farmers, moving up from 45.4 percent to 63.0 percent, a ratio increase of 17.6 percent. The largest numerical increases in farm tenants occurred in Wayne and Nash counties.

The West Decreases

A study of the table shows that the counties with low farm tenant ratios are in the central Piedmont and mountain areas, and the extreme eastern Tidewater counties. In other words those counties of the state which do not produce much cotton or tobacco have few tenants, and for the most part these are the counties in which the tenant rate decreased during the five-year period. The same was true for the census decade 1910 to 1920. For the most part the western counties are witnessing a loss of farm tenants, due to the exodus of this class to available industries.

The East Increases

On the other hand, the eastern half of the state, including the cotton belt along the South Carolina border, is rapidly headed into higher tenant ratios. The tenant belt of North Carolina is in the shape of a full cresent moon, with one horn in Rockingham county on the north, widening to the east and south as tobacco and cotton grow more important, then extending westward along the South Carolina border with the other horn resting in Cleveland and Rutherford counties against the Blue Ridge. In this area are located all the counties whose tenant rate exceeds the state average of 46.5 percent, forty counties in all. In these forty counties whose tenant ratios are above the state average two-thirds of all farms are operated by tenants. In the cotton-tobacco belt comprising approximately 57 counties are concentrated nearly nine-tenths of all farm tenants in the state. The percent of farms operated by tenants has a close correlation with the percent of agricultural wealth produced by cash crops, and vice versa.

Why the Great Gains?

It might be interesting to point out that, except for the 1890 to 1900 decade, our increase in tenant-operated farms was larger during the last five years than during any previous five years since immediately after the Civil War.

How does one account for the fact that North Carolina leads all states in increase in number of farms operated by tenants during the last five years? The following three reasons are perhaps the main explanations.

First, the depression. During the prosperous war period immediately preceding 1920 thousands of farmers, mainly former tenants, made first payments on high-priced cotton-tobacco land. When the slump came these would-be farm owners found it unwise or impossible to hold the land. The land reverted to the original owners, and the would-be purchasers reverted to their former tenant status.

A second reason is that both cotton and tobacco are ideal tenant crops, and North Carolina is the only state in which both of these crops are grown in large quantities. These crops have sold at relatively high prices since 1920 and many farmers have come to the state to produce them. The majority of such newcomers necessarily begin as tenants.

The third reason is the boll weevil which recently wrought havoc with cotton production in South Carolina, Georgia, and other nearby states, causing several thousand tenants to shift operations to North Carolina which was not suffering so badly from the boll weevil. The possibility of tobacco production was also an added attraction. South Carolina and Georgia suffered heavy losses of farmers, many of them settling down in North Carolina.

TELEGRAM
Rocky Mount N.C.
DEC 24 1928

NEGRO FARMING IN STATE ADVANCING

Advisory Council Recently Appointed Has No Difficulty in Getting Co-operation

Greensboro, Dec. 24 (AP)—Agricultural advancement of the negro farmer of North Carolina looms with announcement of an extensive extension service.

Prof. F. D. Bluford, president of the Agricultural and Technical College, here, chairman of an advisory council just organized, today reported securing the united backing of leading negroes of the state to further the program of agricultural advancement.

The council idea grew out of invitation from L. E. Hall, negro district agent for State College, to farmers, educators and business men from among the leading negroes of the state.

Responding to this invitation one farmer came 200 miles to attend the meeting. A normal school principal came 175 miles and the president of a negro teachers' college came 110 miles, all, at their own expense to help in the work.

Prof. T. S. Inborden was elected secretary and Berry O'Kelly of Method, treasurer. Board members selected were Mrs. Anna W. Holland, Dr. S. G. Atkins, Dr. Bluford, J. H. Bias, Dr. C. S. Brown, Dr. G. A. Edwards, C. E. Epps, R. J. Beverly, J. F. Lytle, Dr. E. E. Smith, Mr. O'Kelly and W. S. Turner.

This board, Prof. Bluford said, will have no program of its own but will put itself squarely behind the work of the extension service in its activities with the negro farmer. It will meet annually at some selected point to consider the work being done for negroes. The board then will pass on this work and will make suggestions for its improvement and promotion.

Dean I. O. Shaub said the organization of the advisory council will be of great help to the negro demonstration agents. The council plans for the extension and educational forces of the state to join hands in making the program of work more effective.

Agriculture - 1926

Improvement of.

South Carolina.

MAY 2 1926

FARMERS ENTER CONTEST.

Chester, S. C. News

750 Farmers of South Carolina Enter Cotton Contest—All Counties Represented Except Jasper—Seek to Raise More Cotton per Acre.

Seven hundred and fifty farmers are competing in the statewide contest in growing more and better cotton on five-acre tracts which has been arranged by the agriculture extension service, The State, Columbia, providing the $2,000 in six cash prizes offered. Each of the 46 counties but Jasper is represented. Orangeburg, Lancaster, Marlboro and Sumter leading in the order named in number of entries by counties.

Seventy-three negroes in 14 counties are enrolled, their participation having been stimulated by the fact that in a similar contest in Texas last season a member of their race took second prize.

Entries closed May 1 and a final roster is being compiled, showing the names and postal addresses of competitors, the purity of seed that each used and the source of his seed. One of the objects being to encourage the production of cotton suitable to the needs of South Carolina mills, each contestant was required to plant seed of a variety or strain which normally turns out staple one inch in length or longer and to report in his application for admission the variety he was using and from whom he procured the seed. Each is to keep a simple record book, which must be filed with the extension service by December 15. Prizes will be awarded to those contestants who after complying with the rules produce the largest amounts of lint cotton on their five acre fields. A local committee of three is to be constituted for each contestant, two of whom shall be nearby neighbors, not themselves contestants, the third member being the county demonstration agent. A state-wide committee on awards will be announced later.

Farmer Sarratt's Record

Marlboro County

The ability of W. R. Sarratt, of Cherokee, S. C., to produce the season's first bale of cotton in his section both last year and this, not only sets a record from which Sarratt himself may derive a just pride but is indicative of scientific methods of farming from which the other farmers of his neighborhood and the whole South for that matter, may draw a valuable lesson. 10-2-26

The story of this Negro farmers's success is briefly summarized in an article published in the Spirit of the Press Column of this paper. It shows that his getting the first bale of cotton to the gin from his community for two consecutive years was no circumstance of mere good luck, but a fact incident to the other successes he has made through the application of studied and approved methods of soil cultivation, business methods to the conduct of farming and scientific methods of marketing.

Marlboro Co., S.C.

Sarratt's record proves conclusively that if young colored men of the South, particularly those who have lived close to the soil all of their lives and may be especially adapted for farm life, will take advantage of agricultural training now available in approved schools and from state and national farm extension service, then choose for themselves a career as farmers with the ultimate aim of ownership, they have more than an even chance to secure a sure economic independence and to contribute inestimably to the economic solidarity of their race. Our farmers who may be on the verge of despair and are contemplating a shift from the fields to the factory should study Sarratts' record, learn his methods and gain renewed inspiration therefrom. A success similar to the one he has achieved can be achieved by hundreds of other farmers throughout the South.

Notwithstanding the allurement held out for the skilled and unskilled laborer in the great industrial centers, farming still is and always will remain a basic industry to which the trained, industrious and prudent agriculturist may anchor himself with the assurance that almost certain independence awaits him. No Negro with the proper adaptability should hesitate to prepare himself for a career on the farm. It is the one opportunity in which he will be free to climb the heights. Competition cannot throttle him. It is one outstanding opportunity which the American Negro should strive to grasp. And grasping it will root him immovably in his country's economic fabric.

A Negro Farmer's Story

From The (Columbia, S. C.) State

Marlboro County

Cherokee's first bale of cotton this season as last was produced by a Negro farmer, W. R. Sarratt, and Ed H. DeCamp's Gaffney Ledger says that neither Sarratt's priority in marketing cotton nor his general prosperity is accidental. He is industrious, prudent, forehanded; he is a year-in-year-out soil-builder. 10-2-26

Sarratt was interviewed by The Ledger the other day: He lives on R. F. D. 1, near Concord Baptist church; is married; is the father of 11 children all of whom are living except one; five of his children have married and set up for themselves; his wife is still living and helps him with his farm operations. He owns 84 acres of land, and has a home which cost him $6,000, all of which is paid for; his home is equipped with a Delco lighting system.

Marlboro Co., S.C.

He paid $40 per acre for this land, which he purchased from the late William "Chris" Phillips. It was known as the Jim Allison place. It was "run down". By taking care of his terraces, deep plowing and rotation of crops, he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He has 40 acres in cotton and notwithstanding the dry weather calculates to get from 25 to 30 bales of cotton.

Sarratt raises his own corn and wheat and oats and meat. He has bought no flour in four years and eats wheat bread all the time; he has bought no corn since before the World War. This year he was forced to buy some oats. He keeps one cow, two mules, a Fordson and a Ford touring car. He transacts his business through a Gaffney bank. He has had to borrow some money this year, but will be able to pay it back when it comes due, and hopes to have a surplus left to operate on next year. Some years ago Sarratt bought 92 acres from Dr. C. A. Jeffries. This he sold to Robert Manning at a profit.

Discerning eyes will find much to read between the lines of that record: steadfastness, self-denial, a faculty for management, ability to look ahead far beyond immediacies

Agriculture - 1926
Improvement of.
No Date

South Carolina.

NEGRO FARMERS TO ENTER COTTON TEST

Number In Orangeburg County Will Try For Big Prizes

Quite a number of the more progressive negro farmers of Orangeburg county will enter the big state-wide cotton growing contest and a meeting to talk of this matter was held at the office of the negro county agent over Maxwell's store last Saturday.

The following have already signified their intentions of growing a five-acre plot of cotton in this contest: R. L. Williams, Elloree; I. H. Rhodes, Rowesville; Marshal Jones, Cope; W. B. Williams, Elloree; S. B. Butler, Orangeburg; George W. Oliver, Bowman; J. H. Shivers, North; C. H. Hubbard, Orangeburg; Marion R. Williams, Elloree; and S. M. Glover, Orangeburg.

A similiar meeting will be held Saturday at three o'clock and all other negro farmers expecting to enter this cintest will be expected at this meeting.

SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS REFLECT STATE COLLEGE'S RURAL ECONOMIC POLICY

Orangeburg, May 17. — The State College for Negroes has begun to function in a larger way by taking practical instruction to the farmers of the state. Professor Buchanan, director of vocational agriculture, sees the great task of the institution to be that of stimulating the farmers to go further into diversification of crops and cooperation in marketing farm produce. Moreover, this agriculturalist, who is merely an agent of State College, is endeavoring to get the farmers to see the economy of raising everything possible that is needed for home consumption. Experience teaches that such is essential in achieving economic success on the farm. In addition to stimulating economy in production for home consumption, it is the spirit of the institution to encourage production on a larger scale in order that market demands may be met. This means that the farmers must be guided in keeping up with shifting market conditions, in order to avoid over-production on the one hand and under-production on the other.

Independent
5-27-26
Orangeburg, S. C.

JUN 1 1926

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TEACHING OF AGRICULTURE AT THE WHITNEY COLORED SCHOOL

Editor of The Herald:

A representative number of the colored farmers of the Whitney and Liberty school districts met recently, the 10th inst., at the school house and organized for the purpose of putting on the Smith-Hughes Course of Vocational instruction in the district school. Mr. Roy Ellison, the county supervisor of vocational education, was present and assisted in the organization. The farmers were divided into two classes or groups. E. L. Hodges, an enterprising and viable spirited farmer, was made the chairman of the Whitney group, while J. C. Brown, a leader in his community, was made the chairman of the Liberty group. And it was decided that the two groups, which will be known as evening class pupils, will enter a friendly rivalry to make the best showing at the county fairs and public exhibitions. Farm records will be made, and compared, and new methods will be compared to the old methods. Specimens of the best farm crops and livestock will be placed on exhibition, for judges to decide the prize winners. Already the farmers are busy gathering prize sheafs of wheat and oats to put on exhibition.

Joe Hollis, a tenant on Mr. J. N. Chad's farm known as the Friar Orchard, at the suggestion of the teacher, has tried out an experiment to test the value of the early sowing of wheat. Last year he sowed a part of his wheat the first of October an dthe other part the last of November. The same preparation, fertilizing and cultivation were given to both fields, but he finds that the October sowing is fifteen per cent better than the November sowing. And then he has found out that fertilizing of wheat pays.

The increased yield more than pays the cost of he fertilizers. Frank Cooper on the same farm, s an energetic farmer. He has a fine crop of heat, while I did not see it, but he says that ome of it is nearly waist high. His wife raised our hundred chickens for the market last year, esides supplying her own table. His barn yard oks like a menagerie. I counted twelve different inds of animals, ranging from a mule down to pet rabbit. The farmers on this plantation raise l their meat and bread, and at the end of the ear manage to lay by a little money in the bank.

William Auld, who lives near the school buildng, is a farmer of wide experience and he takes pecial pride in raising a fine breed of hogs. He as made hog raising a profitable business, havg enough meat to supply his own table and to ll to the market. J. C. Brown, Howard Smith, red Ray, John Anderson, Robinson, William iggins, Luther Wiggins, Bud Foster, Jesse Wigins, Jack Prince, Parks, E. L. Hodges, Alex obinson and Rollie Brown, are among the prosrous farmers, living in this community, who ll take part in the work of vocational educaon. The farmers, while worried and greatly oncerned by the continued drought, have not llowed themselves to become despondent and owhearted. Besides being practical farmers ey have an abiding faith in the goodness and re of an All Wise Providence. And then agai e good understanding, confidence, and business lation of tenant and land owner will help to rry them through the hard years.

NSA THOMPSON.

Clemson Ag. College, S. C.

A Real Cotton Farmer.

The McCormick, (S. C.) *Messenger* relates a story showing that a Negro farmer in McCormick county, that state, is a real cotton farmer. But that isn't all. It shows that he is an all-round farmer, and that, in so far as he is personally concerned, the low price of cotton will not place him in financial embarassment. The *Messenger* says:

> A. W. Lanham, a colored farmer of the Rehoboth section of McCormick county, says he has ginned nine bales of cotton from nine acres and has at least another bale open on the same land. The nine bales ginned averaged 510 pounds each. He owns the land, and rotates his crops in order to improve the land.
>
> Besides the cotton he is making over 200 bushels of corn, a large quantity of sirup, potatoes, etc., and rasing plenty of meat for home use. He works what he calls a one and a half horse farm with two horses.

Middling cotton is selling at 11 cents a pound. Good middling is a little higher. Ten bales of cotton averaging 510 pounds to the bale, at 11 cents a pound will give Lanham $561.10 for his cotton from nine acres, and the cost of producing it was nothing like this amount. The average cost of cultivating an acre of cotton is estimated at $30; nine times $30 amounts to $270, leaving a profit of $291.10 on his cotton, to say nothing of the cotton seed which, if he desires to sell them, will bring a good price.

But more than that—this Negro farmer has raised 200 bushels of corn besides ten bales of cotton, and a large quantity of sirup, potatoes and other products usually grown on the farm. At present corn is selling at about 90 cents a bushel in the market, but to the man who has it in his barn it is worth not less than $1.25 a bushel, and it costs only about half as much to cultivate an acre planted in corn as it does one of cotton. Potatoes are selling in the market at present at around 75 cents a bushel, but if you buy them in small quantities they are much higher. Syrup, by the barrel, sells at about $1 a gallon, but it is higher in small quantities.

This Negro farmer in South Carolina has done more than well. He has shown what can and should be done on a farm. Incidentally, we learn that several farmers in Muscogee county have succeeded in raising as much as a bale and more to the acre in some instances. The thing to do is to produce a greater number of bales on a fewer number of acres, and also raise all other food and feed crops.

Agriculture-1926

Texas

Improvement of

Sylvester, Ga., Local

MAY 1 3 1926

Five hundred negro farmers of Texas belong to the "More Cotton on Fewer Acres" contest in that state this year. Last year Will Wilder, negro farmer of Harrison county, Texas, who joined the club and worked a five-acre tract of cotton under direction of the county agent, produced thirteen bales on it, or more than two and a half bales to the acre. He took the money he made out of the cotton and bought the farm from his landlord. This poor colored tenant farmer by use of better farming methods not only paid for a farm from his one year's labor but he made himself famous as well. The country, especially the cotton country, needs a million Will Wilders, both black and white.

MAY 2 3 1926

Dawson, Ga., News

A NEGRO FARMER'S RECORD.

The number of successful negro farmers is increasing every year. The Sylvester Local tells of a remarkable yield of cotton grown by one out in Texas:

Five hundred negro farmers out in Texas have entered the "More Cotton on Fewer Acres" contest in that state. Last year Will Wilder, negro farmer of Harrison county, Texas, who joined the club and worked a five-acre plot of cotton under direction of the county agent, produced thirteen bales on it, or more than two and a half bales to the acre. He took the money he made out of the cotton and bought the farm from the landlord. This poor colored tenant farmer by use of better farming methods not only paid for a farm from his one year's labor, but he made himself famous as well. The country, especially the cotton country, needs a million Will Wilders, both black and white.

Agriculture—1926
Improvement of.

Virginia.

SOUTH'S FARMERS SHOW PROGRESS

WASHINGTON, May 10.—(By A. N. P.)—Marked progress in the economic condition of colored farmers in Southampton County, Virginia, during the past sixty years, is shown in the report of a survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The low price of land in the early post-bellum days favored the attainment of land ownership in this area," says the report. "The rapid increase in the value of timber products afforded many of the farmers a means of employing their labor profitably in disposing of the timber on their land and facilitated clearing for crops. The rapid development of the market for peanuts and the improvement in the price of cotton following the early nineties, and intensified by the World War, have also been favorable conditions."

NEGRO FARMERS IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MAKE PROGRESS

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The survey included 149 farm owners, and 112 tenants. Detailed results have been published in Department Bulletin No. 1404, "Tenancy and Ownership Among Negro Farmers in Southampton County, Virginia." Copies of the bulletin may be obtained free, so long as the supply lasts, upon request to the Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C.

PEANUTS MEAN WEALTH TO BLACK AMERICAN VIRGINIA FARMERS

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North Wilkesboro, N. C. Hustler

MAY 13 1926

NEGRO FARMERS IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MAKE PROGRESS

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NEGRO PROSPERITY

MARKED progress has been made in the economic condition of negro farmers in Southampton County, Va., within the past sixty years, according to a report by the United States Department of Agriculture. The low price of land in the early post-bellum days favored land purchase in this area. The rapid increase in the value of timber products afforded a profit while clearing the land for crops. The increase for peanuts and the improvement in the price of cotton increased negro prosperity. The survey included 149 farm owners and 112 tenants.

Agriculture—1926

Labor Conditions.

Peonage, (Florida).

WHITE PLANTER HELD ON PEONAGE CHARGE

New Orleans, La., Feb. 6—(A. N. P.)—Mood David, owner of a turpentine farm in Calhoun county, Florida, is on trial in the United States [illegible] charged with holding George Diamond, Galvester Jackson, Henry Sanders, and DeWitt Stonan in a state of peonage. Testimony elicited the fact that Davis held the Negroes to work out court costs following their arrest for small debts. The Negroes at the trial in Florida, testified they did not receive any wages [illegible] and remained on the farm under threats of prosecution until taken away by United States marshals and brought to this city. Several respectable white farmers have served sentences in Florida on the charge of peonage.

~~FLA. WHITE PLANTER IS~~ HELD ON PEONAGE CHARGE

Associated Negro Press

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 3—Mood David, owner of a turpentine farm in Calhoun county, Florida, is on trial in the United States court of appeals charged with holding George Diamond, Galvester Jackson, Henry Sanders, and DeWitt Stonan in a state of peonage. Testimony elicited the fact that Davis held the four Negroes to work out court costs.

Agriculture-1926

Labor Conditions.

Peonage (Mississippi.

PEONAGE FARM STORY IS FURTHER BLASTED

Absolutely Groundless, Completed Investigation Proves.

BY IVY PEEBLES.

PHILADELPHIA, Miss., March 14.—The story told by John D. Scott, published in a Memphis afternoon paper, to the effect that Herman Townley, kidnaped by [illegible] from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Barret, near Edenburg, Miss., was one of a large number of boy slaves on the Barret farm, was fully investigated and found to be wholly groundless yesterday by a special representative of The Commercial Appeal.

Today the reporter drove out 11 miles from Philadelphia to Laurel Hill, where resides Mrs. H. Sanders, from whom the Barrets had secured Herman Townley. Mrs. Sanders is a sister of the wife of Chancellor G. C. Tann of Hickory, and an aunt of Miss George Tann, Field Extension Agent of the Tennessee Foundlings Home. Mrs. Sanders lives in a large, old fashioned rural home, where, besides her two grown sons, two grown daughters and her husband, there are today six little feeble minded children, ranging in age from three to nine, placed there by Miss Tann. Mrs. Sanders is taking good care of the children and seems fond of them.

The home pays her $20 a month for the board of these children and necessary medical attention. However, it had been necessary to engage the services of a physican on only two occasions. One child had croup and Dr. Brantly of Madden was called. Another had a skin trouble. Mrs. Sanders suspected itch and called Dr. Horn of Edenburg, who diagnosed the trouble as eczema. Two of the little boys are thus afflicted.

One of the boys, the eldest, attends school some but advances slowly. All are unresponsive and these who attempt to speak are practically inarticulate. The group present a pathetic spectacle. They are evidently warmly clad and well fed, but one wonders if these defectives and dependents placed here from Tennessee will ultimately become charges upon the state of Mississippi.

Mrs. Sanders is trying to find homes for them. When she places a child her check for board of that child stops. She has placed eight boys in farm homes in Leake and Neshoba counties in recent months. She is unable to recall either the exact or the approximate dates when most of these were placed. She remembers that Polk Adams, 11, was placed with Mrs. Lula Goldman, about 12 miles west of Philadelphia, some time last fall. John Robinson, 11, with Jim Perkins, five miles east of Philadelphia, last fall; Harry Cox, 11, with Hez Ogden, near Madden, Walnut Grove, Route 2, in February of this year; Robert Robinson, 6, with N. B. Callahan at Madden last fall; Joe Robinson, 9, with a Mr. Royals in the same community, and John Henry and Frank Edwards, 9 and 6, with a Mr. Jones and a Mr. Gamillion, both of Madden, Leake County.

The ninth was Herman Townley, abducted by his brother-in-law on March 4 from the home of Hugh Barret.

Mrs. Sanders, when seen by The Commercial Appeal reporter, was greatly puzzled over an unsigned note which a taxi driver brought her late Friday night, stating that Miss Tann and a reporter were coming to investigate the situation. She says none of the children placed by her have ever been legally adopted, though papers have been made out and sent to the home in Memphis, no replies were forthcoming.